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RP seen edging out India in call center industry

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Iraqi PM survives assassination attempt in Baghdad

For first time, Palace sides with labor on wage hikes

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

FOR A change, the country's top officials are in agreement with the mass of workers agitating for a wage increase, obviously in hopes of defusing a potentially huge strike that labor unions and transport groups are threatening on Labor Day.

Malacañang yesterday implored the coun-

FOR FIRST/ A7

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

Friday, April 22, 2005 ★★ 88 pages / 13 sections / Vol. 20 / No. 133 P18

website: www.inq7.net

Beijing tragedy: Daughter of slain Filipino also killed

By Nikko Dizon

A FAMILY vacation had suddenly turned into a tragedy.

The daughter of the Filipino tourist who was stabbed to death in Beijing, China, was also killed in the attack. His wife remains in critical condition, the Department of Foreign

BEIJING/ A7

EO on nat'l ID challenged

GMA hit for haste, secrecy in signing

By Gil Cabacungan Jr. and Philip Tubeza

LAWMAKERS yesterday scored President Macapagal-Arroyo for the haste and secrecy in signing Executive Order No. 420 which requires all state agencies and government-owned and -controlled corporations to harmonize their identification systems.

It will take effect 60 days from its signing. She signed the EO on April 13.

At least two militant groups are also set to challenge the executive order before the Supreme Court, which had found "unconstitutional" a similar executive order signed by former President Fidel V. Ramos in December 1996.

Under EO 420, the President directed the head of the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda) to formulate adequate safeguards "to ensure that the right to privacy of an individual takes precedence over efficient public service delivery."

Limiting information to 14 items, making them strictly confidential, and adopting an encryption technology to prevent data theft were among the safeguards that President Arroyo included in the EO implementing the national identification system.

EO/ A20

JOHN PAUL II looking like the Good Shepherd refreshed by a flowing stream was little known as an environmentalist. In his "environmental critique," he wrote in part: "In our time, humans have devastated wooded plains and valleys, polluted the waters, deformed the earth's habitat, made air unbreathable ... blighted green spaces..." ACIPRENSA PHOTO

JPII pleaded for 'ecological conversion'

By Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

THE LATE Pope John Paul II had tried to call the world's attention to the terrible state of Planet Earth, but his words were given little mileage.

Lamented Fr. Sean McDonagh, noted ecologist and author, to the INQUIRER: "Acres of material were devoted to John Paul II's life and teaching, but few people drew attention to his message on the current despoliation of the global environment.

"True, the environment was not at the top of his agenda, but John Paul II did have insightful things to say, which had been totally overlooked," added the Columban missionary.

McDonagh said that on Jan. 17, 2001, John Paul II came out with an "environmental critique" and spoke strongly thus: "In our time, humans have devastated wooded plains and valleys, polluted the waters, deformed the earth's habitat, made the air unbreathable, upset the hydrological and atmospheric systems, blighted green spaces, implemented uncontrollable forms of industrializa-

JOHN/ A6

NGOs fete life, living in Infanta

By Blanche S. Rivera

TODAY, Earth Day, international agencies and top corporations in the Philippines will remember—and hopefully rebuild—shattered dreams in the province of Quezon.

British aid agency Oxfam International will gather donors, disaster survivors, local government officials and concerned individuals in the town of Infanta for a festival dubbed "Bangon Silangan! Pagdiriwang ng Pagbabalik ng Buhay at Kabuhayan."

The festival is intended to cel-

NGOs/ A6

14 kidnapped MSU studes, teachers rescued; 4 dead

By Grace C. Albasin and Joselle R. Badilla
PDI Mindanao Bureau
and Luige A. del Puerto

WITH a little help from Moro rebels, government forces yesterday rescued 14 people, mostly teachers and students from the Mindanao State University (MSU), eight hours after they were abducted while on their way to Marawi City.

Gunmen abducted at least 16 people at around 6 a.m. while they were in a passenger jeep from Iligan City, according to authorities.

"All the victims are safe," Brig. Gen. Benjamin Dolorfino of the Marines said after the rescue. "None was injured or harmed," he said on the phone.

But a policeman and three kidnappers were reported killed in the rescue operation.

The Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), which is holding peace talks with the government, provided support to a team of policemen and soldiers that pursued the kidnappers.

"We coordinated with them through the peace panel and the MILF set up a blocking force. They were near, and they could even hear the shots (during the firefight)," Dolorfino said.

Aida Mama, secretary to MSU president Camar Umpa, said the jeepney bearing the students and teachers was cruising along Barangay Bito in Marawi City when two male passengers asked the driver to pull over.

As soon as the vehicle came to a halt, four armed men commandeered the vehicle and sped toward Piagapo town in Lanao del

14 KIDNAPPED/ A20

REM ZAMORA

SURELY SOUR notes hit the ears of Regine Velasquez (right) coming from BIR chief Guillermo Parayno who declares during a press conference that "evidence is strong" against "Asia's so-called "Songbird." With him are Assistant Chief State Prosecutor Richard Fadullon (center) and Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima.

The taxing Jose Pidal; any chance he'll be taxed, too?

OFFICIALS going after tax evaders yesterday were unusually silent about whether they were investigating relatives and allies of President Macapagal-Arroyo even as they vowed to bring the full force of the law against 700,000 small businessmen who do not declare income or pay taxes.

Asked whether they were investi-

THE TAXING/ A8

SONGBIRD TO JAILBIRD?

Now, it's Regine's turn to face tax evasion raps

By Armand N. Nocum

FROM Asia's songbird to jailbird?

Singer Regine Velasquez yesterday became the latest prominent entertainment personality—after movie star Richard Gomez—to be charged with tax evasion for failing to file the correct tax returns, a crime that could put her in jail for a period of from one to 10 years.

And because the evidence against Velasquez is strong, the government is not likely to be amenable to a compromise. Not even for a song.

Velasquez is on the dock for allegedly failing to declare P3.75 million that she earned in 2003, according to officials behind the government's Run After Tax Evaders (RATE) program who filed the case against her with the justice department yesterday.

The singer declared an income of only P7.7 million in 2003, which she earned from the Viva Television Corp., Maximedia International and GMA Network, the complaint said.

NOW/ A8

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

FRIDAY, APRIL 22, 2005

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Extreme Northern Luzon will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers. Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

COMPILED BY: ERIKA SARMIENTO, PDI RESEARCH/04/22/05 SOURCE PAGASA

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONTPAGE

Text us your feedback: inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Rains

GMA: It's 12% VAT or bust

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Juliet Labog-Javellana

APPARENTLY fearing she would be presented with a watered-down value-added tax reform bill, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday told Congress she wanted the value-added tax rate to not less than 12 percent.

She also made it known that she now wanted to realize revenues of P118 to P135 billion from the reformed VAT.

The President was prompted to step into the fray as the Senate and the House of Representatives remained deadlocked at the bicameral conference committee over what to do about their conflicting versions of the VAT rate.

Senators yesterday expressed surprise at the latest message from the President: that she wanted to raise P130 billion from the VAT by lifting all exemptions and raising the rate from 10 to 12 percent.

It was under this "tremendous pressure" that the bicameral conference committee resumed its meeting yesterday.

But the meeting ended at 6 p.m. last night without any agreement on the final rate. The meeting will resume sessions on Monday.

"It's still black smoke," said Sen. Richard Gordon.

Sen. Ralph Recto said the senators and congressmen will have to think over the President's proposal over the weekend and vote on it next week.

He said the P118 to P135 billion was "too big a burden on the economy."

Sen. Joker Arroyo chided Malacañang for "playing a shell game."

Arroyo said the bicam was thrown in a quandary yesterday when Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima told the committee that the government needed to raise P130 billion from the VAT measure alone.

"The President has in the past repeatedly said she wants P80 billion for the eight tax measures. Today in the bicam, her officials are now asking what would amount to P130 billion. This changes the whole picture," Arroyo said.

The Senate is adamant at maintaining the VAT at 10 percent claiming this would be enough to raise P60 billion in new revenues.

The House doubts the Senate's projections, insisting that only a 12 percent VAT would meet the government's revenue goals.

"It is my earnest hope that the bicameral conference committee will approve a version of the VAT bill that will increase the rate from 10 percent to 12 percent," said the President in a statement issued just before she left for Indonesia.

This is the first time since the Senate has taken up the VAT reform bill that the President has indicated her preference for a 12 percent VAT.

Her spokesperson, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye, has been reluctant to pin down the President's desired VAT rate in previous press briefings saying that she would be happy with any version as long as it would raise the P80 billion the government needs to solve its fiscal crisis.

"While seemingly bitter for all of us to swallow, I know that this pill will save our economy from fiscal demise that could stem from having one of the narrowest revenue bases in the world," Ms Arroyo said.

By intervening in legislative matters, the President is risking getting frustrated by the Senate for the third time in six weeks.

Despite having the majority of senators on her side, she failed in getting the Senate to pass the VAT bill before the chamber adjourned on March 18 and during the special session she called from March 30 to April 1.

The bicam is expected to wrap up work by the end of the month.

It remains to be seen whether the President's message would change the mind of her senator allies, particularly those up for reelection in 2007 who sided with the opposition in opposing the VAT rate hike.

New PCA chief accused of 'looting' Marcos loot

By Blanche S. Rivera and Nelson F. Flores

THE BANTAY Marcos Wealth coalition yesterday vowed to block the appointment of Agriculture Undersecretary Jesus Paras to the Philippine Coconut Authority, accusing him of plundering a portion of the recovered ill-gotten Marcos wealth.

The coalition, composed mainly of farmers' groups, said Paras' appointment to the PCA could signal the government's attempt to use the coconut levy funds for anomalous projects.

"It seems Malacañang is again realigning its chief political and fund operators in various government agencies in preparation for the eventual recovery of the coconut levy," Kalipunan ng Maliliit na Magniniyog sa Pilipinas (KAMMPIL) leader Sonny Azures said.

"Paras' appointment will kill the coconut industry. He has no management experience in coco levy funds," Azures said.

A member of the coalition lodged a plunder and malversation case against Paras for allegedly spending P541 million of the Marcos wealth —which is supposed to go solely to the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program—on alleged ghost irrigation projects during his stint as chief of the National Irrigation Administration from 2002 to 2004.

The charges were filed by the Pambansang Ugnayan ng mga Nagsasarili-ing Lokal na Organisasyon sa Kanayunan (UNORKA) after Paras allegedly failed to account for the P541 million released by the Department of Budget and Management to the NIA.

In a three-page complaint, UNORKA secretary general Enrico Cabanit said the money was intended to fund the development component of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program and was intended for a set of provinces listed in the Special Allotment Release Order.

He said, "Paras whimsically and capriciously caused the revision of the listing of the areas set forth."

Cabanit said areas that were not supposed to be part of the program were included on the list and areas already on the list were deleted. He said areas that were funded through the regular budget were included among those to be funded by the SARO.

He cited the Balasig communal irrigation project in Tumauini, Isabela, which needed P10 million to be completed. He said Paras reduced the amount to P5 million for no reason, noting that the revision did not go through the Presidential Agrarian Reform Commission and did not have DBM approval, contrary to existing policy.

Cabanit said that up to now there has been no complete liquidation, comprehensive performance or financial audit of the projects undertaken by the NIA.

Paras said he was surprised at the charges. *With Christine A. Gaylican*

Gov't, MILF report breakthrough in talks

THE GOVERNMENT and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front had a breakthrough during an initial round of peace talks, resolving several sticking points relating to the territorial rights of Muslims in the southern Philippines.

Three days of talks between Manila and the MILF, hosted and brokered by Malaysia, ended Wednesday "on a high note with both parties expressing deep satisfaction over the result," a joint statement said.

"We have reached consensus on the concept, areas covered and management of resources in a declared Muslim ancestral homeland," a member of the MILF negotiating panel, who declined to be identified, said.

"But we failed to agree on the issue of governance."

Neither side released any details on what they had agreed upon, but their statement indicated the negotiations went smoothly. It said both sides "hailed the outcome of the meeting as a breakthrough toward a just and durable solution" to the conflict in Mindanao.

Chief government negotiator Silvestre Afable said, "We have both broken ground on some details on the strands of the ancestral domain issue... We have bridged more than 60 or 70 percent of these issues. This gives us much confidence to move forward in a satisfactory way."

MILF chief negotiator Mohagher Iqbal hailed the "very fruitful negotiations," noting that it was the first time since the peace process began in 1997 that both sides had substantive discussions regarding ancestral domain issues.

"I suppose that if we can fully harness this issue of ancestral domain, then the next issue which will be finding a negotiated political settlement.... would be quite easy for us," Iqbal said.

The joint statement said the two sides would further discuss ancestral domain over the next few months.

The government's new ceasefire committee chief said he was hopeful the "favorable environment" on the ground would lead to a successful peace deal with the MILF.

"The key ingredients of a successful peace talks are there," Brig. Gen. Ramon Santos said.

Despite an earlier statement from MILF political affairs chief Ghazali Jaafar that the rebel group would pursue its bid for independence, Santos said peace was at hand.

He said what had been fueling his optimism was the sincerity of both the government and the MILF to resolve the decades-old Moro rebellion in Mindanao.

"We have found the right path to peace. We have developed that listening habit. Now we listen to each other before we explain our side, unlike before [when] we explained to the public separately whenever there are conflicts or skirmishes," Santos said.

Jaafar said if the negotiators reach an agreement on governance, then the final solution could be drafted.

Technical level discussions, meanwhile, will continue in Malaysia to forge a consensus on all issues by June when formal talks for a peace deal will start. No date has been set for the technical talks.

The latest talks stretched well into Wednesday night in the seaside town of Port Dickson before the rebels and the Philippine government announced the "breakthrough" on the land issue, the biggest hurdle to a formal peace deal.

The MILF claims a swathe of Muslim-majority areas on Mindanao, which it says is the ancestral homeland of the Moro people. The matter is complicated by a push by the government to open the region to foreign mining companies. *Edwin O. Fernandez, Jeffrey M. Tupas, Joeffrey Maitem and Dennis C. Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau; AFP, AP, Reuters*

Lomibao: PNP can't go after terrorists in MILF camps

By Luige A. del Puerto

MUCH as it wants to, the hands of the Philippine National Police are tied when it comes to going after the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the terrorist groups it allegedly allows to train in its camps in Mindanao.

PNP Director General Arturo Lomibao on Wednesday said, "Our intelligence disclosed that the Jemaah Islamiyah, the Abu Sayyaf Group and the Rajah Solaiman Group have received training in or near MILF camps.

"(But) we are preempted from going into the MILF camps because of the peace process," he said. He was referring to the peace talks being held in Malaysia between the government and the MILF.

The MILF has repeatedly denied any links to the Abu Sayyaf or Jemaah Islamiyah.

"Definitely, the MILF has no ties with Jemaah Islamiyah," MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu earlier told the INQUIRER.

"They have had training in MILF camps in Mindanao, especially the group of Ahmed Santos," Lomibao said, referring to the Rajah Solaiman Group (RSG), which Santos supposedly heads.

The RSG was "discovered" training its members in terrorism in Pangasinan three years ago, the police said.

Police intelligence lost track of the group after some of its members disappeared after they were charged in court.

Days before Holy Week, the police said some of its members planned to carry out another wave of bombings, particularly in Metro Manila, in retaliation for the death of Abu Sayyaf leaders during a police assault in Taguig City last month.

Kabalu said the MILF high command had warned its ground commanders against forging ties with terrorist groups like the Abu Sayyaf and JI.

"There are sanctions against it," Kabalu earlier told the INQUIRER.

He had insisted there was no training camp on Mt. Cararao, which is on the border of Lanao and Maguindanao.

"Intelligence officials have been saying there is a JI training camp on Mt. Cararao. But as far as the MILF is concerned, there is no such camp there," Kabalu said.

He admitted though the MILF maintained a "small unit" in the area.

"You can't build a camp there because, one, *mahirap ang tubig* (there is no water). This is a very basic requirement," he said.

Erap still popular? So what?

By Nelson F. Flores

SO WHAT if he's still popular?

Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo said yesterday that ousted President Joseph Estrada may still be the darling of the masses but this had no bearing at all to the plunder case filed against the former leader with the Sandiganbayan.

Four years after he was booted out of office, a survey by the Social Weather Stations showed that Estrada received a 9-percent net trust rating, with 44 percent of the respondents saying that they had "much trust" in him.

The survey was conducted from Feb. 25 to March 10 and covered 1,200 respondents nationwide. But Marcelo said the ex-president's popularity had no place in a court of law.

"This is a different arena," Marcelo said; adding that the antigraft court will decide based on the merit of the case.

GMA in Jakarta for 2-day Afro-Asian summit

By Christine O. Avendano

JAKARTA (via PLDT)—President Macapagal-Arroyo and a lean Philippine delegation arrived here yesterday for the Asian-African summit where she is also expected to meet with United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan and leaders of Tunisia, Nigeria, Mongolia and Ghana, according to embassy officials.

The President arrived at around 5 p.m. (Jakarta time) on board a chartered Philippine Airlines plane and was welcomed by Indonesian officials amid tight security.

Ms Arroyo is among the 51 heads of state and government attending the two-day summit and the Commemoration of the Golden Jubilee of the Asian-African Conference 1995 held in Bandung, Indonesia.

Army Col. Nonato Alfredo Peralta Jr., Philippine military attache to Jakarta, told reporters that security preparations for the Asian and African leaders from 81 member nations and 12 countries with observer status were "really overwhelming."

According to Peralta, more than 24,000 military and police personnel as well as civilian public officers are on standby to thwart possible terror attack. He added that the security arrangement also involved plan in the event of an earthquake, which recently struck twice Indonesia with tragic results.

Peralta said Jakarta was expecting that most immediate threat to come from demonstrations by cause-oriented groups "taking advantage of the well-covered event."

Philippine Ambassador to Indonesia Shulan Primavera said they were arranging a meeting between Ms Arroyo and Annan today on the sidelines of the summit. Annan was invited to the conference.

The President is expected to hold bilateral talks with leaders of Tunisia, Ghana, Mongolia and Nigeria, Primavera said.

Ms Arroyo, along with Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, is to address the Asian-African business summit with the theme "Managing for Global Competitiveness: Asia Perceptives."

She will also deliver a speech at the plenary session this afternoon where discussions will focus on the new Asian-African strategic partnership.

Last night, Ms Arroyo was to meet with the Filipino community here in Shangrila Hotel, where she was billeted.

Petron hales haulers to court for fuel theft

By Michael Lim Ubac

PETRON Corp. yesterday took the unprecedented step of taking to court the companies that it engages in transporting its fuel products from its refinery in Bataan to its storage facilities in Manila.

In a P277-million damage suit filed with the Manila Regional Trial Court, the semi-government oil firm charged Herma Shipping and Transport Corp., Flagship Petroleum Carriers, Herma Transport Solutions, Core Maritime Corp. and 50 John Does for estafa, theft, breach of contract and other violations of the Revised Penal Code.

Petron said that for the past five years it has suffered "substantial financial losses" from the respondents' alleged theft of the fuel that they hauled from the Bataan refinery to its storage facilities in Pandacan.

Between 1999 and 2004, Petron lost a total of 23 million liters of fuel worth about P261.2 million because of "systematic" pilferage by the hauling companies who had obtained contracts to transport its jet fuel, diesel and other petroleum products, the complaint said.

Petron counsel Vicente Chuidian sought actual damages worth P261.2 million, plus other damages worth a total of P16 million (P5 for moral damages, P10 million for exemplary damages and P1 million for attorney's fees).

In the complaint, Petron said the haulers' modus operandi consisted in "under-declaring metric tonnage received at point of fuel intake and over-declaring metric tonnage received at point of fuel discharge."

Petron records showed that Herma et al made 533 trips for jet fuel (664,208.6 kiloliters or kl) and 1,419 trips for diesel and other fuels (17,852.98 kl).

The oil firm said it later discovered that the haulers' tankers only unloaded 658,613.6 kl of jet fuel, or a shortfall of 5,595 kl. No data was provided concerning the shortfall in other fuels.

"Upon (internal) investigation, plaintiff discovered that all defendants have conspired, confederated, entered into, agreed upon and have habitually engaged in illegal and criminal modus operandi," said Petron.

The defendants, "through cunning trickery or manipulation," were able to defraud Petron whenever they loaded and unloaded the firm's products, it said.

To conceal the pilfered fuel products, the haulers allegedly enlisted the help of several vessels—the M/V Angat, M/V Baliuag, M/V Bocaue, M/V Guiguinto, M/V Hagonoy, M/VMarangal, M/V Pandi, M/V Malolos, M/V Plaridel and M/V Bigaa—to which they would unload the pilfered fuel at sea, Petron said.

The 50 John Does were the owners, stockholders and officials of the other defendant corporations who were also allegedly liable for breach of contract because "the corporations have clearly been used to defeat public convenience, justify wrong, protect fraud or defend crime."

Meanwhile, Anakpawis party-list Rep. Crispin Beltran yesterday filed a House bill giving President Macapagal-Arroyo the power to regain full control of Petron, which is partly owned by Saudi interests.

Beltran said the President would have no choice but to support moves for the full nationalization of the oil industry starting with the buy-back of the Petron shares that were sold to the Saudi-based Arab-American Oil Corp. (Aramco) and the repeal of the Oil Deregulation Law.

HB 4206 is seeking to break the alleged oil cartel created by the "big 3" oil companies consisting of Petron, Pilipinas Shell and Caltex.

He said Petron was very vital to the economy because it was one of the three main players in the downstream oil industry.

Saudi Aramco holds a 40-percent equity in Petron, while another 20 percent is held by the public. The government, represented by the the Philippine National Oil Corp. (PNOC), owns 40 percent.

Along with HB 1063, which sought to repeal the oil deregulation, the Beltran bill is aimed at giving government a bigger role in the downstream oil industry, including the power to affect oil prices.

While the bill is pending, Beltran said the President could immediately instruct the Department of Energy to "reverse" the privatization of all government agencies related to energy, deregulate the power and energy industry and reduce dependency of the country on oil-fired plants.

Palace cracks down on land title syndicates

MALACAÑANG is cracking the whip on fake land titling syndicates that have been parceling big chunks of inalienable forest lands to private groups and individuals over the past few years.

Environment Secretary Michael Defensor said his department has adopted as a policy "to resist the reclassification of lands from forest land to alienable and disposable."

"We have so many cases of forest lands having titles that we are presently fighting to have them reverted back to forest land," Defensor said.

Defensor said that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources policy would also cover "unclassified public forest lands" that have been the target of syndicates that issue fake land titles giving ownership of these state properties to private groups and individuals.

Among the cases of land grabbing being closely watched by Malacañang is the reforestation project in Bgy. Maguirig, Solana, Cagayan.

At least 100 farmer-families have contested the ownership claim of the Padilla family who has secured titles to 375 hectares of land that have been classified as a forest reserve. The disputed property was fenced off several years ago and farmers, who have been hired as workers and planters by the DENR nearly 30 years ago, are asking the President to intervene in the case.

Victor Padilla, who represents the family, said he acquired the property from its original owner Honesto Lasam with full knowledge that the land was untenanted and not covered by the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program.

The DENR, however, maintained that Padilla's land titles were null and void because this was part of a forest reserve declared by virtue of Proclamation No. 157 in 1967.

Defensor said the DENR was backing the position of the Solicitor General declaring that Padilla's were worthless. However, Defensor said the government would have to wait for the decision on the case pending in the Court of Appeals.

Pinoy gays welcome new pope, but . . .

MANILA—Homosexuals in the Philippines yesterday welcomed Pope Benedict XVI but said they expect continued "repression" under his leadership.

The Progressive Organization of Gays (Progay), the Philippines' most vocal gay rights group, charged that the Vatican has a "long history of repressing gays in church." It nonetheless said it welcomed Pope Benedict XVI, the doctrinal enforcer of John Paul II, as his successor.

"Our greetings of peace and best wishes to the new pope are, however, tempered by an expected continuation of the consistent pronouncements from the Vatican condemning lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgenders worldwide," Progay spokesman Mykhel Falguera said in a statement.

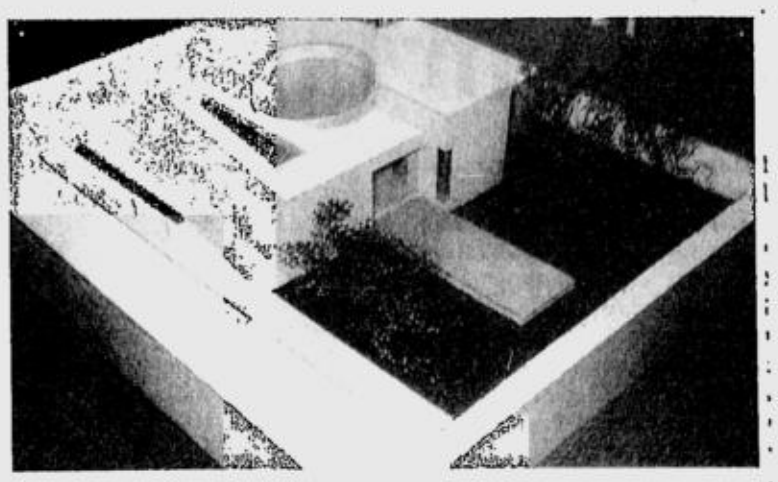
The group stressed it supported the Vatican's opposition to the US-led war in Iraq, corruption and poverty, among other issues.

However, it said it has often locked horns with the Roman Catholic church on issues such as condom use to prevent the spread of AIDS.

Progay remains open to dialogue with church officials "despite the intimidating hateful language" used against homosexuals, Falguera said.

He said gays in the Philippines were hoping divine intervention would soften the new Pope's stand on homosexuality.

"Pope Benedict is, after all, human and can change his mind," he said. "If miracles still happen, we ask that the spirit inspire him and his fellow cardinals to extend the unconditional, nonjudgmental love of Jesus to all sexual minorities."AFP



ROXAS MEMORIAL CENTER
The President Manuel A. Roxas Memorial Center will soon rise on a 2,788-square-meter lot fronting Manila Bay, at the corner of Roxas Boulevard and Pedro Gil Street in Malate, Manila. The center will celebrate the Filipino struggle for freedom from foreign rule from 1915, when the first independence mission was sent to the United States, to 1955, the height of post-World war II national reconstruction. It will house a museum, a 50-seat multi-media experience room (black box), a gallery and an exhibit hall.

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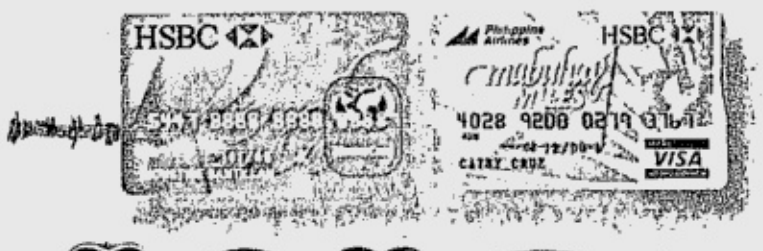

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RP business a monopoly of the rich—Noli

VICE President Noli de Castro yesterday bewailed the monopoly of businesses in the Philippines by the rich, saying only a small part of it belongs to small businessmen and entrepreneurs.

De Castro spoke during the sub-regional launching of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) report, "Unleashing Entrepreneurship : Making Business Work for the Poor" by the United Nations Development Fund in Makati City.

He said there was a need to make private entrepreneurship work in developing countries like the Philippines to help them address the wide economic disparities between the rich and the poor.

Based on government studies, De Castro said, a total of 23.5 million Filipinos or roughly 30.4 percent of the population were found to be living below the poverty level as of 2003. Of this, almost 11 million were found to be living below the food poverty line.

The MDG report was prepared by the UN Commission on Private Sector and Development (UNCDSP), created by UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, to find out how the potential of the private sector and entrepreneurship can be unleashed, and how can the private sector be engaged to meet this challenge.

The report said that sustainable private sector investment was indeed the main factor that accelerated economic growth and reduced poverty.

It cited the presence of sustained growth in countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America where there were also strong private investment.

"The answer to poverty, it appeared, is in the hands of private entrepreneurs," De Castro said. *Cynthia Balana*

Ocampo is new NCCA chairman

OCAMPO

NATIONAL Historical Institute (NHI) chair Ambeth R. Ocampo, writer, historian, INQUIRER columnist and Ateneo de Manila University professor, is the new chair of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA).

In a board meeting on April 14, the Board of Commissioners of the NCCA unanimously elected Ocampo as chair. He replaces former Tourism undersecretary Evelyn B. Pantig who retired from public service.

Pantig served the NCCA as chair from July, 2001 to march 10, 2005. She was concurrently undersecretary for planning, product development and coordination at the Department of Tourism (DOT).

Presidential Assistant on Culture and NCCA Executive Director Cecile Guidote Alvarez welcomed Ocampo's entry and expressed optimism that Ocampo would bring with him a wealth of experience to continue the NCCA's program.

Corrections

IN THE article "MILF leader says group insists on independence," on Page A18, April 21, line four of the third paragraph should have read "The government has offered to expand the scope of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao from the current four provinces and one city to 14 provinces and four cities."

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to Gerry Lirio, city editor, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City; fax Nos. 897-4793/94; e-mail addresses: glirio@inquirer.com.ph and daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

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No need for total gun ban yet, says PNP chief

THERE IS no need for a total gun ban, for now.

Philippine National Police chief Director General Arturo Lomibao said despite the killings of political activists, journalists and now, former Pasig City Rep. Henry Lanot, the situation in the country has not yet reached that level when a total gun ban has become necessary.

"I don't think a gun ban at this time should be applied," Lomibao said during the Manila Overseas Press Club forum in Makati City the other night.

"The case of Congressman Lanot and Marlene Esperat are being addressed by our investigators and our intelligence people. But in the event that we will have more of these (killings), then we can probably enforce a gun ban like what we (do during) the election period," he said.

The number of crimes notably go down during the election period, when a strict gun ban is enforced, drinking in public places is prohibited, and police checkpoints are set up everywhere.

Earlier, Lomibao said the police have no say in making peace and order policies and this matter should be left to policy makers to decide.

Anti-gun advocates have long clamored for a total gun ban, arguing that unless this is done, the culture of violence and climate of impunity would continue to haunt residents.

Lomibao said while the PNP would be happy to have a gun ban, other factors have be to be considered. *Luige A. del Puerto*

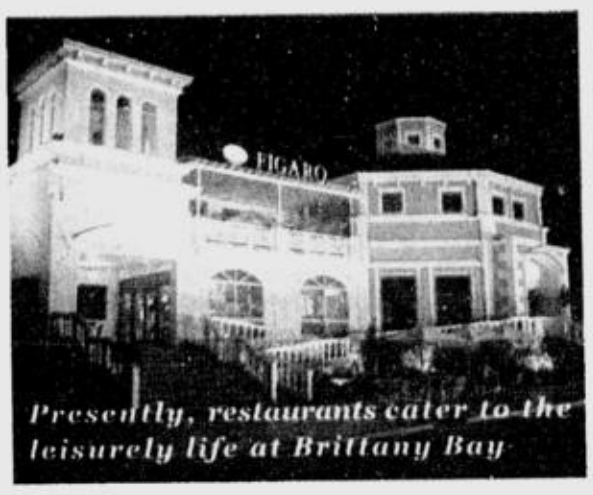
Soon rising in the 50 hectare development of Brittany Bay, Sucat, Viera offers a unique proposition in an upscale condominium: a view of Laguna de Bay, the refreshing bay breeze and its closeness to Alabang and Makati.

Moreover, with its generous space and the thriving commercial area that will soon sprawl across 8 hectares all around the condo, Viera provides for a home life that is both comfortable and convenient—exactly what is demanded by life today.

The buildings of Viera feature neo-Victorian designs evident in bay windows, cornices and more as seen in this conceptual rendition

Viera at Brittany Bay

A bay view, the bay breeze and the nearby location—all in one unique upscale condo



Presently, restaurants cater to the leisurely life at Brittany Bay

The Bay Area: Viera takes advantage of the distinctive benefits offered by Laguna de Bay. Most of Viera's units have balconies for gazing at the bay view. The condo is built to funnel the bay breeze all around.

Units are designed for cross ventilation so you enjoy fresh air any time of the day right inside your condo. And with multiple entry points, you have easy access to and from Viera when going to the nearby business districts of Alabang and Makati.

The Wharf: Interweaving across 8 hectares of Brittany Bay, the restaurants and shops collectively called The Wharf, offers a choice of leisure activities. This will soon be connected by tree-lined brick pathways and elevated walkways to Viera.

To date, a number of restaurants have already set up shop at Brittany Bay: Dencio's, Figaro, and just recently, Grappa's. Oribe, the Japanese restaurant and The East Bay Center for Music & Arts, the piano, painting, ballet learning center will open soon.

Everything San Francisco: Viera echoes the San Francisco-inspired neo-Victorian architecture that reverberates all across Brittany Bay.

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A spectacular sunrise welcomes your mornings at Viera

Along with the bay breeze, the bay view, the nearby location, the restaurants and shops, Viera makes for a life similar to the kind experienced in one of the world's great cities.

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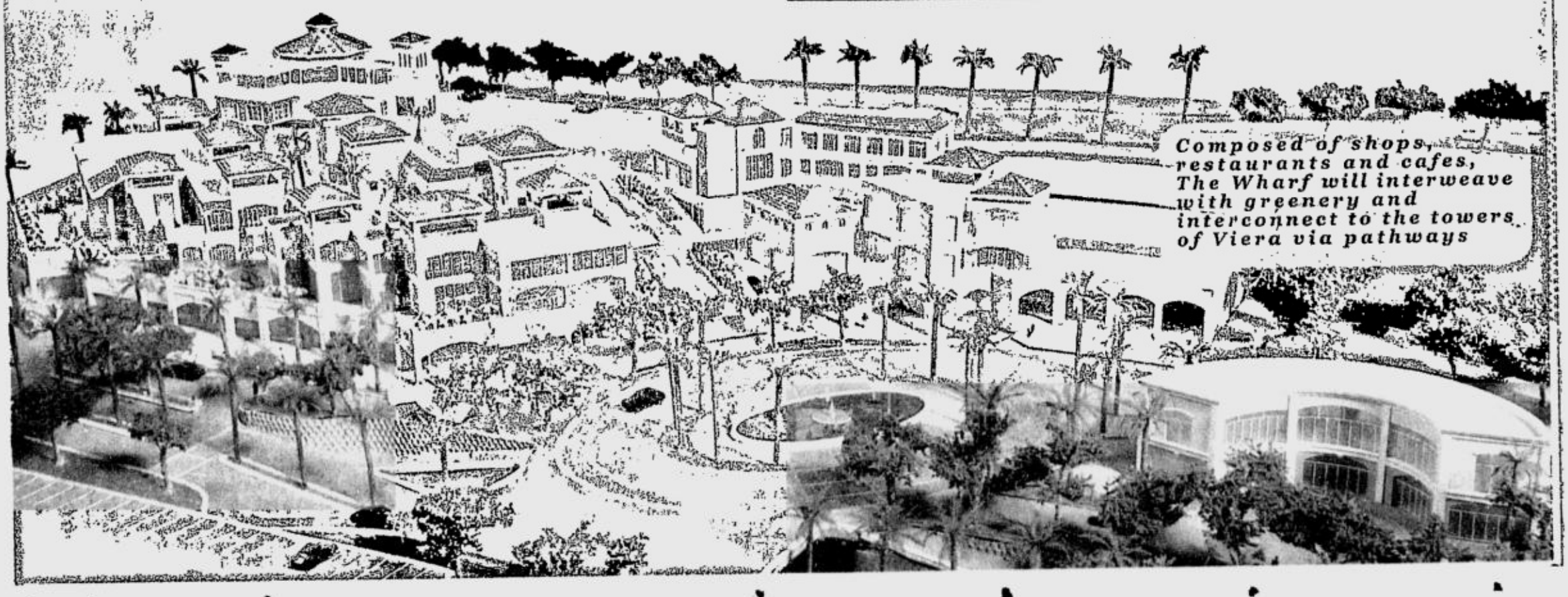

Composed of shops, restaurants and cafes, The Wharf will interweave with greenery and interconnect to the towers of Viera via pathways

Dioxins found in chicken eggs near Cavite waste plant

By Blanche S. Rivera

CHICKEN eggs gathered in a barangay in Cavite province where an incinerator plant is operating have been found to contain dioxin, "the most toxic chemical known to science," the EcoWaste Coalition said yesterday.

EcoWaste released the results of tests conducted by a laboratory in the Czech Republic on six eggs from free-range hens in Barangay Aguado in Trece Martires, Cavite. The tests showed that the eggs had "alarming levels" not only of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) but also of dioxin, an unintended by-product of combustion, which is known to cause cancer in humans.

"Eggs must contain zero ... toxic contaminants, especially dioxins that can lead to cancers and other adverse health effects even at very low levels of exposure," said EcoWaste's Eileen Sison.

The six eggs, which were gathered in January last year from within 500 meters of the Integrated Waste Management Inc. (IWMI) incinerator plant in Aguado, were found to have three times the level of dioxin accepted by European standards, the coalition said.

The eggs had 9.68 pictograms of dioxin per gram of fat, compared to the acceptable level of 3 pg/g of fat. They also had 3.30 pg of PCB per gram of fat, slightly higher than the maximum acceptable level of 2.0 pg/g of fat.

The tests were part of a global egg sampling project to determine the extent of the toxic contamination of chicken eggs collected from 18 countries.

The results are to be presented in Uruguay next month, when the 18 countries that ratified the Stockholm Convention meet again to discuss initiatives in reducing persistent organic pollutants.

Most obvious source

The dioxin content of the eggs from the Philippines was higher than that in the eggs collected from a hazardous waste incinerator in the Czech Republic and a site near a polyvinylchloride plant in Mossville in the United States.

"The most obvious potential waste source ... in the community is the incineration plant that burns medical waste," EcoWaste said.

The Environmental Management Bureau, which received a copy of the test results yesterday, said it would investigate whether the high toxic content of the eggs in Aguado could be traced to the incinerator.

According to EMB director Julian Amador, dioxins are also often released through open burning, which is practiced by many households in the Philippines.

"We have to check first if the incinerator is really the cause of the toxins because open burning is also a source of dioxins," Amador said.

Court case

Organizations against waste and pollution have demanded that the incinerator in Aguado be shut down, but the government has to "be careful" because of a pending court case, Amador said.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources in fact ordered the closure of the incinerator last year.

However, the IWMI managed to secure a temporary restraining order. It also filed a case seeking P4.5 million in damages from the DENR for trying to stop its operations.

IN THE KNOW

Dioxin is a general term that describes a group of hundreds of chemicals that are highly persistent in the environment. It is one of the most toxic chemicals known to science. The most toxic compound is 2,3,7,8-tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin or TCDD.

Dioxin is formed as an unintentional by-product of many industrial processes involving chlorine such as waste incineration, chemical and pesticide manufacturing and pulp and paper bleaching. It was the primary toxic component of Agent Orange, the powerful herbicide and defoliant used by US armed forces during the Vietnam War.

Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) are entirely man-made chemicals and do not occur naturally. Their primary use are as a dielectric fluid in electrical equipment like transformers, capacitors and circuit breakers.

Both dioxin and PCBs are known carcinogens. They are part of the dirty dozen persistent organic pollutants known worldwide as POPs. (The other 10 are aldrin, chlordane, DDT, dieldrin, endrin, heptachlor, hexachlorobenzene, mirex, toxaphene and furans).

The POPs are subject to the Stockholm Convention, the treaty which obliges signatories which include the Philippines to take measures to eliminate or minimize them.

The Philippines has listed PCBs as hazardous materials under Republic Act No. 6969 or the Toxic Substances, Hazardous and Nuclear Wastes Control Act, enacted in 1990. Their sale, use and importation are restricted and violations are subject to penalties which include fines ranging from P10,000 to P50,000. Penalties may also include imprisonment of six months to 12 years.

JPII pleaded for 'ecological conversion'

From page A1

tion, humiliating—to use the words of [Italian 12th-century poet] Dante Alighieri—the earth, the flower bed that is our dwelling.

"It is necessary, therefore, to stimulate and sustain the ecological conversion which, over these last decades, have made humanity more sensitive when faced with the catastrophe toward which it is moving."

Defense of human life

According to McDonagh, the call to conversion has, for the most part, fallen on deaf ears "because people in vital positions in politics, economics, the media and religion regularly fail to assess the ecological impact of their activities."

McDonagh also pointed to John Paul II's 1990 "Peace with God the Creator, Peace with All Creation" as a source of papal reminders on the care for creation.

He likewise cited John Paul II's first encyclical, "Redemptor Hominis" (Redeemer of Humankind) as a commitment to the defense of human life.

"But this generation and the next cannot thrive if crucial ecosystems are degraded," McDonagh said. "The Pope was aware that his efforts to build a peaceful, just and sustainable world were sides of the same coin."

John Paul II's words on the environment, though apocalyptic, are substantiated by the Millennium Ecosystem Report published just before he died, McDonagh said.

"This is the world that faces the new Pope [Benedict XVI]," Mcdonagh said of the report's contents.

The report was collated under the direction of Robert Watson, British-born chief scientist at the World Bank, with the help of over 1,300 scientists from almost 100 countries.

It chronicles how humankind is rapidly destroying vital ecosystems like tropical forests, coral reefs and crop lands.

Green cardinals

It tackles the destructive impact of climate change, the doubling of water withdrawals from rivers and lakes in the last 40 years, over-fishing and the extinction of a significant number of species in the web of life.

Now back in his native Ireland, McDonagh spent over 20 years in the Philippines, several of them among the T'boli of Mindanao.

He has written extensively on ecology and religion. His latest book is "The Death of Life: The Horror of Extinction."

Green movement

In his latest essay for the INQUIRER, "The Environment and the Papacy," McDonagh rued that "very few cardinals have spoken out in any significant way about the devastation of the earth, even those in countries like Brazil where the rape of the Amazon is so obvious."

He said some cardinals even appeared critical of the Green movement, and said: "In 1987, Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger accused the Greens as being a blend of ill-defined romanticism, elements of Marxism and even stronger strains of liberalism—none of which he had much time for."

But he credited those with a strong environmental voice in the College of Cardinals, the strongest being, he said, that of Cardinal Cahal Daly of Ireland.

Daly published the book "The Minding of Planet Earth" in 2004. Being over 80, he was not among the "red hats" in the conclave that elected Ratzinger, John Paul II's hardline enforcer of orthodoxy, as the new Pope.

Kyoto Protocol

McDonagh praised Cardinal Wilfrid Napier of South Africa for taking a strong position against genetically engineered crops.

But he noted that "elsewhere in Africa, environmental statements from Church leaders are sparse."

The Catholic bishops of the Philippines issued a pastoral letter on the environment several years ago.

Indeed, the world needs a moral and religious leader who will speak out on the irreversible scale of environmental destruction, McDonagh said.

He added: "The new Pope should be unafraid to challenge the United States and Australia to face up to their moral responsibility for the future and sign the Kyoto Protocol on greenhouse gases.

"Time is running out, according to the Millennium Report. Unless we take decisive action, future generations will be forced to live amid the ruins of the natural world."

International NGOs descend on Infanta

From page A1

ebrate the "rebirth of life and livelihood." It is aimed at refocusing attention on the rehabilitation of the communities ravaged by the storms and flash floods that killed and displaced over 1,000 people in Quezon and other provinces in southeastern Luzon last December.

It also seeks to again raise the alarm against environmental degradation.

"I don't know if the government has really blamed the disaster on logging, but it is beyond dispute that environmental degradation increases the people's vulnerability to natural hazards," Lillian Mercado-Carreon, Oxfam-Philippines country program manager, said in a phone interview on Tuesday.

"We want to encourage the local and national governments to pool together their resources. We're just here to bridge the gap from the immediate impact of the disaster to the long-term development," she said.

The daylong festival, to be held at the Infanta Central Elementary School, features artworks made from the logs that were borne by the flash floods, plays by the disaster survivors portraying their experiences, and a concert by Noel Cabangon and other local artists.

There will be a fair for the distribution of fruit tree seedlings and palay seeds to farmers, followed by a turnover of two mini rice mills.

"To gain entry into the fair grounds and watch the concert and play, people from outside [the towns of] Real, Infanta and Nakar are asked to bring food donations, to be collected by local organizations," Carreon said.

Downward slide

The affected communities in Quezon, particularly Real, Nakar and Infanta, have yet to recover from the disaster, according to Carreon.

Infanta, which used to be high on the list of the human development index, is now on the brink of being classified as a poor municipality, she said, adding:

"Unless something is done, it will continue to slide downward."

Farmers would not be able to return to rice farming for up to three years, based on the assessment of the Department of Agriculture. Many of them are now experimenting with other crops.

Many adults have migrated to the capital, Lucena, or to Metro Manila to work as domestics and construction laborers, forcing the children to drop out of school and tend to their younger siblings.

"What we're after is making the public aware that having a humanitarian situation is not just about the absence of food. People will find ways to cope but they will face long-term consequences of disasters. Very often in the Philippines, this link is not seen," Carreon said.

13-fold increase

The number of Filipinos displaced by flash floods last year has reached 2.6 million—a 13-fold increase from the number three years ago, the Kalikasan People's Network for the Environment said yesterday.

Citing data from the US-based Dartmouth Flood Observatory, Kalikasan said there had been an alarming climb in the number of people killed and displaced by flash floods in the past three years.

In 2002, 99 people were killed and 190,000 were displaced by large floods. The figures rose to 293 killed and 350,857 displaced in 2003, and shot up to 1,765 killed and 2,617,949 displaced in 2004.

A total of 20 large floods were recorded in 2002-2004, usually occurring from June to January.

"What is alarming is that these large floods occur in areas where there is poor forest cover and which are experiencing rapid degradation of the environment, like in Aurora, Quezon and Southern Leyte provinces," Januar Ong, forestry specialist of the Center for Environmental Concerns (CEC), said in a statement.

On the average, large floods occur once every one or two decades and cause significant damage to people and property.

Environmentalists said the fast conversion and denudation of forests were to blame for drastic climate change, increased incidence of floods and drought, and vulnerability of local communities to disaster.

Brace for more disasters

Kalikasan said the Philippines should brace for more disasters if the government continues to promote extractive industries like logging and mining.

Clemente Bautista, Kalikasan national coordinator, said the loss of the forest cover was a result of the government's policy to open up the country to big mining firms and continue commercial logging.

He said the government had given permits to big commercial firms to log a total of 1.37 million hectares of forest as of this year, although it limited logging operations to only two regions in Mindanao.

Mining projects also cover almost 40 percent of the remaining forests, he said.

"What happened in Infanta last year is a picture of the Philippines' future," Fr. Pete Montellana of the Infanta prelature said in a press conference yesterday.

"It has happened to Ormoc, Leyte; it has happened to Infanta. We cannot count on the government to save us. Our unity is our only strength. It's not the government that will save this country," he said.

Anti-logging and anti-mining groups held separate but simultaneous protests outside the Department of Environment and Natural Resources office in Quezon City yesterday.

They called on the government to stop commercial logging and scrap the Mining Act of 1995 that allows foreign firms to explore Philippine mining sites.

'Extinction crisis'

The CEC is calling on President Macapagal-Arroyo to overhaul government policy in order to save what is left of the Philippines' natural resources and avert an "extinction crisis."

CEC executive director Frances Quimpo said in a statement that last July, the DENR announced that the forest cover had increased to 23 percent, or 7.17 million hectares.

But based on CEC research, the Philippines only has 15-percent forest cover remaining, and most of these areas are under logging and mining concessions, she said.

Quimpo said Ms Arroyo could have stopped if not reversed the trend of environmental degradation if only her administration had overhauled the defective policies and programs, such as the Forestry Code of 1975 and the Mining Act. *With a report from Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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DEAN RICARDO L. SADAC
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Dioxins found in chicken eggs near Cavite waste plant

By Blanche S. Rivera

CHICKEN eggs gathered in a barangay in Cavite province where an incinerator plant is operating have been found to contain dioxin, "the most toxic chemical known to science," the EcoWaste Coalition said yesterday.

EcoWaste released the results of tests conducted by a laboratory in the Czech Republic on six eggs from free-range hens in Barangay Aguado in Trece Martires, Cavite. The tests showed that the eggs had "alarming levels" not only of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) but also of dioxin, an unintended by-product of combustion, which is known to cause cancer in humans.

"Eggs must contain zero ... toxic contaminants, especially dioxins that can lead to cancers and other adverse health effects even at very low levels of exposure," said EcoWaste's Eileen Sison.

The six eggs, which were gathered in January last year from within 500 meters of the Integrated Waste Management Inc. (IWMI) incinerator plant in Aguado, were found to have three times the level of dioxin accepted by European standards, the coalition said.

The eggs had 9.68 pictograms of dioxin per gram of fat, compared to the acceptable level of 3 pg/g of fat. They also had 3.30 pg of PCB per gram of fat, slightly higher than the maximum acceptable level of 2.0 pg/g of fat.

The tests were part of a global egg sampling project to determine the extent of the toxic contamination of chicken eggs collected from 18 countries.

The results are to be presented in Uruguay next month, when the 18 countries that ratified the Stockholm Convention meet again to discuss initiatives in reducing persistent organic pollutants.

Most obvious source

The dioxin content of the eggs from the Philippines was higher than that in the eggs collected from a hazardous waste incinerator in the Czech Republic and a site near a polyvinylchloride plant in Mossville in the United States.

"The most obvious potential waste source ... in the community is the incineration plant that burns medical waste," EcoWaste said.

The Environmental Management Bureau, which received a copy of the test results yesterday, said it would investigate whether the high toxic content of the eggs in Aguado could be traced to the incinerator.

According to EMB director Julian Amador, dioxins are also often released through open burning, which is practiced by many households in the Philippines.

"We have to check first if the incinerator is really the cause of the toxins because open burning is also a source of dioxins," Amador said.

Court case

Organizations against waste and pollution have demanded that the incinerator in Aguado be shut down, but the government has to "be careful" because of a pending court case, Amador said.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources in fact ordered the closure of the incinerator last year.

However, the IWMI managed to secure a temporary restraining order. It also filed a case seeking P4.5 million in damages from the DENR for trying to stop its operations.

IN THE KNOW

Dioxin is a general term that describes a group of hundreds of chemicals that are highly persistent in the environment. It is one of the most toxic chemicals known to science. The most toxic compound is 2,3,7,8-tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin or TCDD.

Dioxin is formed as an unintentional by-product of many industrial processes involving chlorine such as waste incineration, chemical and pesticide manufacturing and pulp and paper bleaching. It was the primary toxic component of Agent Orange, the powerful herbicide and defoliant used by US armed forces during the Vietnam War.

Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) are entirely man-made chemicals and do not occur naturally. Their primary use are as a dielectric fluid in electrical equipment like transformers, capacitors and circuit breakers.

Both dioxin and PCBs are known carcinogens. They are part of the dirty dozen persistent organic pollutants known worldwide as POPs. (The other 10 are aldrin, chlordane, DDT, dieldrin, endrin, heptachlor, hexachlorobenzene, mirex, toxaphene and furans).

The POPs are subject to the Stockholm Convention, the treaty which obliges signatories which include the Philippines to take measures to eliminate or minimize them.

The Philippines has listed PCBs as hazardous materials under Republic Act No. 6969 or the Toxic Substances, Hazardous and Nuclear Wastes Control Act, enacted in 1990. Their sale, use and importation are restricted and violations are subject to penalties which include fines ranging from P10,000 to P50,000. Penalties may also include imprisonment of six months to 12 years.

JPII pleaded for 'ecological conversion'

From page A1

tion, humiliating—to use the words of [Italian 12th-century poet] Dante Alighieri—the earth, the flower bed that is our dwelling.

"It is necessary, therefore, to stimulate and sustain the ecological conversion which, over these last decades, have made humanity more sensitive when faced with the catastrophe toward which it is moving."

Defense of human life

According to McDonagh, the call to conversion has, for the most part, fallen on deaf ears "because people in vital positions in politics, economics, the media and religion regularly fail to assess the ecological impact of their activities."

McDonagh also pointed to John Paul II's 1990 "Peace with God the Creator, Peace with All Creation" as a source of papal reminders on the care for creation.

He likewise cited John Paul II's first encyclical, "Redemptor Hominis" (Redeemer of Humankind) as a commitment to the defense of human life.

"But this generation and the next cannot thrive if crucial ecosystems are degraded," McDonagh said. "The Pope was aware that his efforts to build a peaceful, just and sustainable world were sides of the same coin."

John Paul II's words on the environment, though apocalyptic, are substantiated by the Millennium Ecosystem Report published just before he died, McDonagh said.

"This is the world that faces the new Pope [Benedict XVI]," Mcdonagh said of the report's contents.

The report was collated under the direction of Robert Watson, British-born chief scientist at the World Bank, with the help of over 1,300 scientists from almost 100 countries.

It chronicles how humankind is rapidly destroying vital ecosystems like tropical forests, coral reefs and crop lands.

Green cardinals

It tackles the destructive impact of climate change, the doubling of water withdrawals from rivers and lakes in the last 40 years, over-fishing and the extinction of a significant number of species in the web of life.

Now back in his native Ireland, McDonagh spent over 20 years in the Philippines, several of them among the T'boli of Mindanao.

He has written extensively on ecology and religion. His latest book is "The Death of Life: The Horror of Extinction."

Green movement

In his latest essay for the INQUIRER, "The Environment and the Papacy," McDonagh rued that "very few cardinals have spoken out in any significant way about the devastation of the earth, even those in countries like Brazil where the rape of the Amazon is so obvious."

He said some cardinals even appeared critical of the Green movement, and said: "In 1987, Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger accused the Greens as being a blend of ill-defined romanticism, elements of Marxism and even stronger strains of liberalism—none of which he had much time for."

But he credited those with a strong environmental voice in the College of Cardinals, the strongest being, he said, that of Cardinal Cahal Daly of Ireland.

Daly published the book "The Minding of Planet Earth" in 2004. Being over 80, he was not among the "red hats" in the conclave that elected Ratzinger, John Paul II's hardline enforcer of orthodoxy, as the new Pope.

Kyoto Protocol

McDonagh praised Cardinal Wilfrid Napier of South Africa for taking a strong position against genetically engineered crops.

But he noted that "elsewhere in Africa, environmental statements from Church leaders are sparse."

The Catholic bishops of the Philippines issued a pastoral letter on the environment several years ago.

Indeed, the world needs a moral and religious leader who will speak out on the irreversible scale of environmental destruction, McDonagh said.

He added: "The new Pope should be unafraid to challenge the United States and Australia to face up to their moral responsibility for the future and sign the Kyoto Protocol on greenhouse gases.

"Time is running out, according to the Millennium Report. Unless we take decisive action, future generations will be forced to live amid the ruins of the natural world."

International NGOs descend on Infanta

From page A1

ebrate the "rebirth of life and livelihood." It is aimed at refocusing attention on the rehabilitation of the communities ravaged by the storms and flash floods that killed and displaced over 1,000 people in Quezon and other provinces in southeastern Luzon last December.

It also seeks to again raise the alarm against environmental degradation.

"I don't know if the government has really blamed the disaster on logging, but it is beyond dispute that environmental degradation increases the people's vulnerability to natural hazards," Lillian Mercado-Carreon, Oxfam-Philippines country program manager, said in a phone interview on Tuesday.

"We want to encourage the local and national governments to pool together their resources. We're just here to bridge the gap from the immediate impact of the disaster to the long-term development," she said.

The daylong festival, to be held at the Infanta Central Elementary School, features artworks made from the logs that were borne by the flash floods, plays by the disaster survivors portraying their experiences, and a concert by Noel Cabangon and other local artists.

There will be a fair for the distribution of fruit tree seedlings and palay seeds to farmers, followed by a turnover of two mini rice mills.

"To gain entry into the fair grounds and watch the concert and play, people from outside [the towns of] Real, Infanta and Nakar are asked to bring food donations, to be collected by local organizations," Carreon said.

Downward slide

The affected communities in Quezon, particularly Real, Nakar and Infanta, have yet to recover from the disaster, according to Carreon.

Infanta, which used to be high on the list of the human development index, is now on the brink of being classified as a poor municipality, she said, adding:

"Unless something is done, it will continue to slide downward."

Farmers would not be able to return to rice farming for up to three years, based on the assessment of the Department of Agriculture. Many of them are now experimenting with other crops.

Many adults have migrated to the capital, Lucena, or to Metro Manila to work as domestics and construction laborers, forcing the children to drop out of school and tend to their younger siblings.

"What we're after is making the public aware that having a humanitarian situation is not just about the absence of food. People will find ways to cope but they will face long-term consequences of disasters. Very often in the Philippines, this link is not seen," Carreon said.

13-fold increase

The number of Filipinos displaced by flash floods last year has reached 2.6 million—a 13-fold increase from the number three years ago, the Kalikasan People's Network for the Environment said yesterday.

Citing data from the US-based Dartmouth Flood Observatory, Kalikasan said there had been an alarming climb in the number of people killed and displaced by flash floods in the past three years.

In 2002, 99 people were killed and 190,000 were displaced by large floods. The figures rose to 293 killed and 350,857 displaced in 2003, and shot up to 1,765 killed and 2,617,949 displaced in 2004.

A total of 20 large floods were recorded in 2002-2004, usually occurring from June to January.

"What is alarming is that these large floods occur in areas where there is poor forest cover and which are experiencing rapid degradation of the environment, like in Aurora, Quezon and Southern Leyte provinces," Januar Ong, forestry specialist of the Center for Environmental Concerns (CEC), said in a statement.

On the average, large floods occur once every one or two decades and cause significant damage to people and property.

Environmentalists said the fast conversion and denudation of forests were to blame for drastic climate change, increased incidence of floods and drought, and vulnerability of local communities to disaster.

Brace for more disasters

Kalikasan said the Philippines should brace for more disasters if the government continues to promote extractive industries like logging and mining.

Clemente Bautista, Kalikasan national coordinator, said the loss of the forest cover was a result of the government's policy to open up the country to big mining firms and continue commercial logging.

He said the government had given permits to big commercial firms to log a total of 1.37 million hectares of forest as of this year, although it limited logging operations to only two regions in Mindanao.

Mining projects also cover almost 40 percent of the remaining forests, he said.

"What happened in Infanta last year is a picture of the Philippines' future," Fr. Pete Montellana of the Infanta prelature said in a press conference yesterday.

"It has happened to Ormoc, Leyte; it has happened to Infanta. We cannot count on the government to save us. Our unity is our only strength. It's not the government that will save this country," he said.

Anti-logging and anti-mining groups held separate but simultaneous protests outside the Department of Environment and Natural Resources office in Quezon City yesterday.

They called on the government to stop commercial logging and scrap the Mining Act of 1995 that allows foreign firms to explore Philippine mining sites.

'Extinction crisis'

The CEC is calling on President Macapagal-Arroyo to overhaul government policy in order to save what is left of the Philippines' natural resources and avert an "extinction crisis."

CEC executive director Frances Quimpo said in a statement that last July, the DENR announced that the forest cover had increased to 23 percent, or 7.17 million hectares.

But based on CEC research, the Philippines only has 15-percent forest cover remaining, and most of these areas are under logging and mining concessions, she said.

Quimpo said Ms Arroyo could have stopped if not reversed the trend of environmental degradation if only her administration had overhauled the defective policies and programs, such as the Forestry Code of 1975 and the Mining Act. *With a report from Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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DEAN RICARDO L. SADAC
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For first time, Palace sides with labor on wage hikes

From page A1

try's employers, appealing to their sense of sharing, to give in to the labor sector's demand for a wage hike to enable their workers to cope with the rising cost of living.

This is the first time the Arroyo administration has openly endorsed demands for an increase in the minimum wage.

"The times call for a spirit of solidarity and give and take. We are hopeful that a reasonable adjustment in wages can be achieved without making a severe dent on the viability and profitability of enterprises," said Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye in a statement.

Siding with labor

Bunye said the government was siding with labor on the wage hike issue this time because of the steep increase in the prices of goods and services that is being stoked by surging oil costs.

"The government is taking all reasonable means to cushion the impact of rising prices. And one of these is a strong pitch for an active wage review by the wage boards," he said.

Malacañang said it was about time labor's demand for a P125 increase in the daily minimum wage rate was considered, citing the rise in the prices of basic goods and the impending hike in transport fares.

The Palace has ordered the regional wage boards to expedite the wage hike petitions and to make a decision on or before May 1.

Malacañang has been hinting at a wage increase after it posed no objection to the granting of a fare increase. Transport groups last week mounted a nationwide strike and are likely to get a P2 fare increase as a result.

Drilon, too

Senate President Franklin Drilon yesterday also came down on the side of a wage increase, calling on the regional wage and productivity boards to immediately act on pending petitions for salary increases.

Drilon said the boards could even act on their own "so we can give the necessary relief to our ordinary wage earners and their families."

Drilon, who served as labor secretary in the Aquino administration, said the government has been "deferring moves to increase wages initially to keep inflation rates low and minimize the impact on the broader consumer population."

But he said a wage increase would be "timely and necessary" now because of the "almost unstoppable increases in the prices of petroleum products" and the impending transport rate increase.

Drilon also said a wage increase would be crucial at this time because of the impending adjustments in the value-added tax rate.

Destabilization talk

Bunye, however, dismissed reports of destabilization moves to be timed with the Labor Day rallies.

"These reports are old hat. Every now and then, these kind of rumors come out but we all know that even if these destabilization efforts were real, they will not succeed," said Bunye in a radio interview.

He said the public was already fed up with efforts to disturb the status quo and would rather focus on their jobs and livelihood.

"All countries have their share of problems. But we are confident that we will rise above these challenges and that our situation will not end in any broad destabilization," Bunye said.

Summer of discontent

Militant party-list representatives said the country could expect a summer of discontent should Malacañang and Congress fail to legislate a P125 daily wage hike before May 1.

Representatives Renato Magtubo (Partido ng Manggagawa) and Crispin Beltran (Anakpawis) yesterday launched a "Labor Day countdown" in an attempt to pressure Congress to prioritize deliberations and the passage of House Bill No. 345 before May 1.

HB 345 proposes a P125 daily wage increase for all workers and a P3,000 monthly wage increase for all state workers and has gained support from some 52 legislators.

Magtubo said the decision on the wage increase cannot be left to the regional wage boards which he said have a "track record for granting cheap wage increases" and exempting almost all businesses from granting the pay increases.

Big rally

Beltran warned of more protests should Malacañang fail to respond to the workers' demand, saying "this Labor Day will witness one of the biggest anti-GMA rallies this year."

The impending wage and fare hike has, however, drawn mixed reactions from militant labor groups, which insist on the repeal of the Oil Deregulation Law to stop the oil companies from increasing their prices. *With reports from Juliet Labog-Javellana, Leila B. Salaverria and Dano Angelo Tingcungco*

Beijing ...

From page A1

Affairs (DFA) said in a statement yesterday.

Regina Mia Madrigal was also stabbed to death like her father, Emmanuel (not Eduardo as earlier reported), the DFA said. Emmanuel's wife was identified as Vivian.

Sightseeing tour

The INQUIRER learned that the Madrigal couple and three of their four daughters had joined a tour group organized by a travel agency. The Madrigals were visiting one of Beijing's top tourist attractions when they were attacked by a knife-wielding man.

Madrigal was in his early 50s.

"Three Filipinos were stabbed by a Chinese national who ran amuck at the Tiananmen Square near the Mao Zedong Mausoleum in Beijing between 9 and 10 a.m. on Tuesday, April 19, 2005," Charge d' Affaires Jaime Victor Ledda of the Philippine Embassy in Beijing said in his report to Foreign Affairs Secretary Alberto Romulo, which was quoted in the statement.

The victims were rushed to the Peking Union Hospital.

Ledda said that a certain Wang, 25, from Jiangsu province, was identified as the assailant and had been arrested by the People's Republic of China (PROC) Public Security Bureau, Tiananmen Square branch.

Retired Shell exec

The INQUIRER learned that Emmanuel was a retired IT manager of Pilipinas Shell. He retired only two months ago. He was an active lay minister at the St. James the Great Parish Church at Ayala Alabang Village where the family lives.

The Madrigal couple was active in church activities, mainly in the renewal group of the parishioners, the sources said.

A separate source described Emmanuel as tall and soft-spoken. "He was a gentleman, a reserved person. He rarely smiled but he was kind," the source said.

Another said his wife, Vivian, was a tall and "elegant" woman.

Cremated

Sources told the INQUIRER that the remains of Emmanuel and Regina were cremated in Beijing yesterday afternoon.

Their ashes would reportedly be brought back to Manila today by the two other daughters of the Madrigals who were in China when the incident happened.

A married daughter, who was left behind in Manila, had left for Beijing to be with their mother, one of the sources said. A brother of Emmanuel also reportedly flew to Beijing.

Condolences

In conveying his condolences to the family, Romulo instructed the Office of the Undersecretary of Migrant Workers' Affairs (OUMWA) and the Philippine Embassy in Beijing to extend additional assistance as needed by the Madrigal family and to coordinate closely with the police authorities in the investigation of the case as well as the prosecution of the assailant.

Ledda also said that the Asian Department of the PROC Ministry of Foreign Affairs has also offered assistance to the family.

Text messages

On Tuesday afternoon, text messages flew fast among Madrigal's neighbors and friends that Regina had been stabbed to death in Beijing. Before dusk, another alarming text message went around that "Bong," as Emmanuel was called, had passed away.

The Madrigals' neighbors have offered Masses for the family, and are now helping plan services for Emmanuel and Regina when their ashes arrive.

A source close to the family said Vivian was "getting better," although she remained in critical condition.

Speculation arose that the Madrigals were attacked during a Chinese demonstration against Japan at the square, part of the two-week old fierce protests mounted by the Chinese over Japan's alleged whitewashing of the history of the Japanese occupation of their country.

Emmanuel, the sources said, looked "Japanese".

But DFA Undersecretary Jose Brillantes was quick to dismiss the idea.

"That is a conjecture and highly speculative. We have not received reports of that kind," he told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

Brillantes also denounced the attack.

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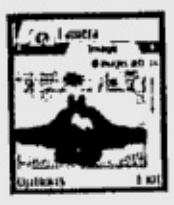
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Now, it's Regine's turn to face tax evasion raps

From page A1

"If the case is attendant with fraud, we do not enter into a compromise payment. In this particular case, the law says the substantial amount of the under-declaration is prima facie evidence of fraud which unless controverted by strong evidence to the contrary is punishable," said Guillermo Parayno, the Bureau of Internal Revenue chief.

Velasquez is said to be in Washington D.C. for a series of shows with Pops Fernandez. She is expected to return to the country in early May.

"She will surely answer all of Parayno's questions when she gets back. She will definitely explain her side," said a source close to the singer.

"I've known her since she started in show business. She's very transparent when it comes to her finances. *Probinsyana ang* approach [without guile]."

The source tried to contact Velasquez's sister, Ca-cai, but she refused to comment on the case.

"She said she has to wait for Regine before she says anything official," the source said.

In its complaint, the BIR said the P3.75-million undeclared income represented the singer's "income as product endorser of Nestlé Philippines Inc."

Nestlé has reportedly issued a certification confirming the payment of that amount to Velasquez.

The BIR said the amount represented 48.29 percent of the P7.7 million that the singer declared as income in 2003.

1 to 10 years in jail

Parayno explained that the National Internal Revenue Code considers the failure to declare more than 30 percent of a taxpayer's income as substantial tax under-declaration, which is punishable by one to 10 years imprisonment.

"This is no longer a case of non-filing but failure to disclose all income or correct income in the tax declaration that is now shown to us," Parayno said.

He said that what Velasquez did had caused "injury to the government."

The BIR chief said tax investigators sent letters to Velasquez asking her to explain discrepancies in her tax records, but there was no reply from her or from her lawyers or bookkeepers.

No mercy

Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima, who attended the press briefing that the BIR gave at the justice department yesterday, said Velasquez cannot expect any mercy from the government.

"This is precisely the reason for the RATE program. Under the RATE program, we want to make it clear that there will be no compromises. That we will apply the full penalties under the law because this is the objective to change the risk perception of all taxpayers," he said.

If the government were to agree to enter into a compromise, Purisima said authorities would not be able to achieve their purpose of warning people of the risks involved in not declaring or paying their taxes.

Clear signal from BIR

"We want to send a very clear signal that it is no longer business as usual in the Philippines, in the BIR and at the (Department of Finance)," he said.

"Celebrities should realize that it is hard to hide income and evade taxes because they are very visible. Even without the ITS/TAS (integrated tax system/taxpayer account system), people would remember her high-profile endorsement of Nestlé products, among other endorsements," Purisima said.

The BIR was able to track down Velasquez's alleged non-declaration of the Nestlé endorsement job through its ITS/TAS tracking system.

Other endorsements

Velazquez is also the endorser of the tourism promotion program of the Department of Tourism and Smart Communications as well as the campaigns of KFC, Wendy's, Digitel, Lux, Smart and Nokia.

Parayno said tax investigators were also digging into records of Velasquez's other probable sources of income.

Purisima and Parayno denied that they were singling out movie and television personalities in the RATE campaign. They said they had charged more than 50 less prominent individuals for tax evasion last year.

The BIR and the finance and justice department are the main agencies involved in the RATE program.

Last week, the RATE filed tax evasion charges against Gomez who claimed he had been paying his taxes and accused the government of targeting him because he was an opposition figure.

Others charged

Aside from Velasquez and Gomez, others charged with tax evasion under RATE were: INQUIRER columnist Cristina Aboitiz-Juan, doctor to celebrities Joel Cortez Mendez, basketball star Asi Taulava, former military comptroller Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia and his wife, businessman Renato Herrera of Glo Herbal and officers of Philippine Telephone & Telegraph Corp. (PT&T), Excellance Weaving and Italcar, the motor vehicle distributor. *With a report from Marinel Cruz and Michelle V. Remo*

The taxing . . .

From page A1

gating Rep. Ignacio Arroyo, the President's brother-in-law who owned up to the controversial Jose Pidal account which held hundreds of millions of pesos, or the influential evangelist Mike Velarde, Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima opted not to answer.

"We are not at liberty right now to give you a list or specific future cases," he said.

Purisima said he did not even know the people being investigated by the Run After Tax Evaders (RATE) program of the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Department of Finance.

Avoiding VIPs?

The RATE program has been criticized for allegedly singling out prominent media, movie and television personalities but avoiding powerful politicians who are known to own large business interests.

"We don't choose whether they are allies of the administration or not, we don't know that, we are not politicians," Purisima said.

He said RATE cases were not filed "based on politics."

"We are just finance people ... we have a process of investigating, we are not privy to who is chosen" to be investigated or charged with tax evasion, he said.

Not witch-hunt

As for Velarde, whose group was once rumored to have been interested in purchasing the sequestered RPN-9 television channel for P500 million, Purisima snapped: "We should not turn this into a witch-hunt."

"This is about comparing, filing, cross-checking (tax documents) to find out if everyone is paying the correct amount of taxes," he said. *Armand Nocum*

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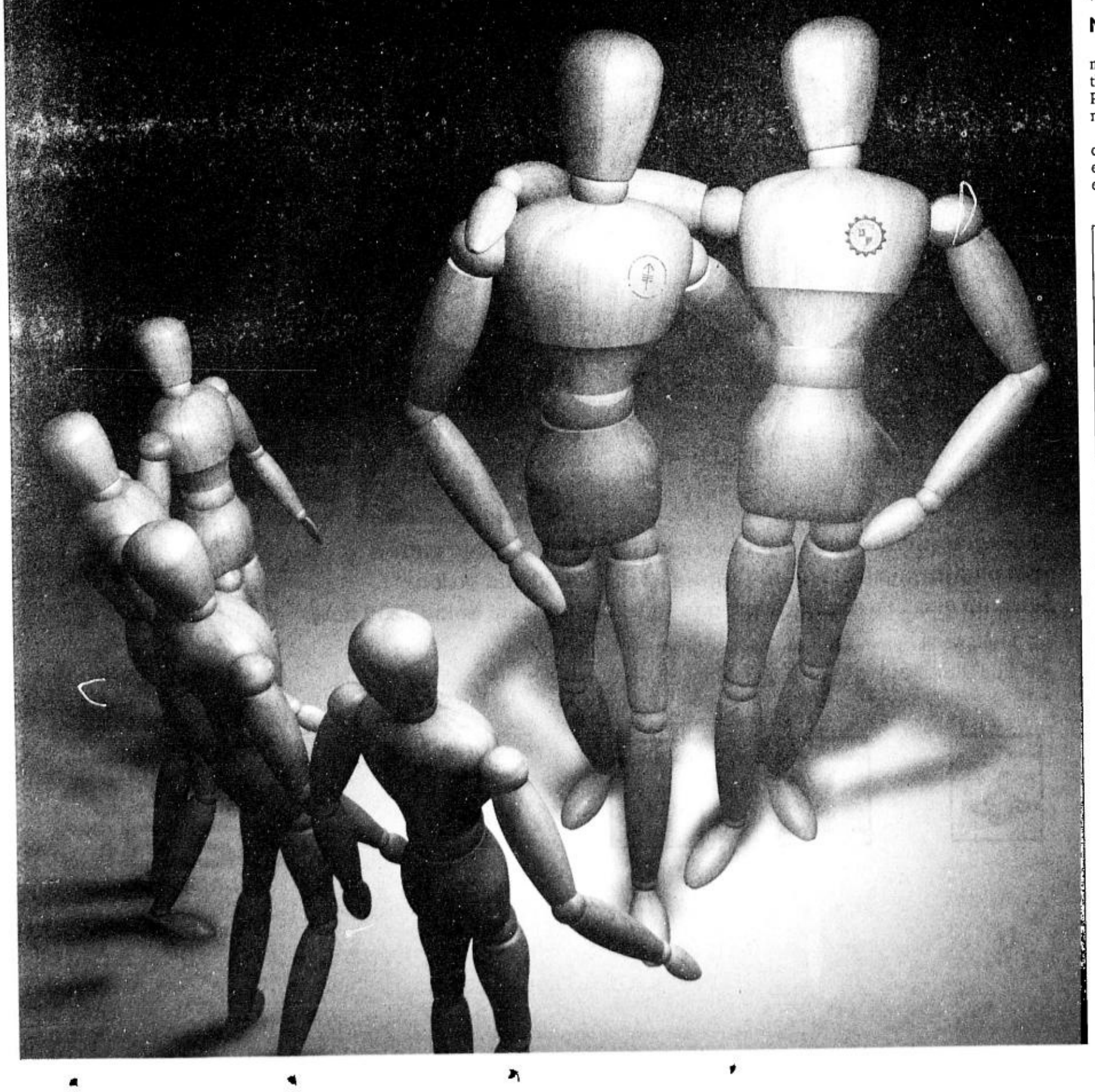

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, April 22, 2005
4th Week of Easter

1st Reading: Acts 13:26-33
Gospel: John 14:1-6

Jesus said to his disciples, "Do not be troubled; trust in God and trust in me. In my Father's house there are many rooms. Otherwise I would not have told you that I go to prepare a place for you. After I have gone and prepared a place for you, I shall come again and take you to me, so that where I am, you also may be. Yet you know the way where I am going."

Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going; how can we know the way?" Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life; no one comes to the Father but through me."

Commentary

We are with Jesus at table before he dies. He is trying to prepare his friends for his leaving them—violently in death but that he is going not only to die, but to be lifted up in death and resurrection and to sit at God's right hand, to prepare a place for those who will follow him in life and death. And he tells them that he will come again so that 'where I am, you also may be.' But the disciples do not know the way—they do not yet know that the way is the way of the cross, Jesus' way of speaking the truth, of being just and merciful, being the presence of God with us. He proclaims: "I am the way, the truth and the life; no one comes to the Father but through me. Have we gone through Jesus to the Father? Do we listen to his words, walk the way of the cross with him, rely on Jesus in the face of adversity and walk with others on the way, encouraging one another and reminding one another of Jesus' words? Do we stake our lives on Jesus' way?

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Iraq PM Allawi survives slay attempt

BAGHDAD—Iraq's caretaker prime minister survived an assassination attempt by a suicide bomber on Wednesday on the eve of an expected announcement of a new government, as insurgent violence regained momentum.

Iyad Allawi escaped unhurt when a suicide bomber in a car attacked his convoy as he headed home from a meeting on a new Cabinet line-up, said Thaier al-Naqib, a government spokesperson.

The attack came hours after President Jalal Talabani announced that he hoped the new government would be finalized on Thursday—more than 11 weeks after Iraq's historic elections.

One policeman was killed in the blast and four were wounded, police said.

Allawi, who escaped assassination by Saddam Hussein's agents while in exile in London, was seen as a tough prime minister, imposing emergency laws in a bid to crush the insurgency.

But he hands on a huge security challenge for his successor, Islamist Shiite politician Ibrahim Jaafari.

The shooting of 19 Iraqi National Guardsmen at a soccer stadium north of Baghdad and Talabani's account of 50 bodies being hauled from a river near the capital indicated a revival in violence despite a relative lull after Jan. 30 elections.

Three other car bombings in Baghdad killed at least two Iraqi civilians and wounded eight. And two car bombs struck the entrance of a US and National Guard base in Ramadi, a hotbed of resistance about 100 km west of Baghdad.

A new democratically elected government in power could ease Iraqis' widespread frustration about the weeks of horse-trading even as rebel violence persists.

"We want to announce it (the new government) as soon as possible," Talabani told reporters after meeting Jaafari, Allawi and Abdul Aziz al-Hakim, leader of Shi'ite Muslim party SCIRI.

"We are hoping it will happen tomorrow afternoon," he said.

Iraqi leaders have been negotiating over the Cabinet since January's elections that brought a Shiite majority to power.

But disagreements over distribution of ministries and on how the Sunni minority should be brought into the political process have held up the formation of the government.

Much of the squabbling has focused on the oil, interior and defense ministries. The interior ministry, responsible for internal security, is expected to go to a member of SCIRI, the main party in the Shiite alliance.

US and Iraqi officials have worried that delays in forming the government will hurt the battle against insurgents. A key concern is whether the new government headed by Shiites like Jaafari would change tack and do away with units like the Sunni-led commandos that have shown results against rebels.

Those tough questions come as bloodshed returns to levels seen over the past two years, when suicide bombings, kidnappings and beheadings have undermined oil power Iraq's efforts to rebuild after 24 years of dictatorship and several major wars. *Reuters*

9/11 suspect to plead guilty

WASHINGTON—Accused Sept. 11 conspirator Zacarias Moussaoui will plead guilty on Friday to all charges against him and admit to having a role in the deadly hijacking plot, US government sources said on Wednesday.

Moussaoui, who has been charged with six counts of conspiracy relating to the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, will plead guilty to the six counts in a court appearance, they said.

"We do expect him to admit to some connection with the Sept. 11 attacks," one government official said.

The officials said Moussaoui, 36, knew he could face a death sentence if he pleaded guilty. They said there was no plea deal with the government and sources close to the case said Moussaoui's lawyers were opposed to his decision.

US District Judge Leonie Brinkema issued an order saying Moussaoui was "fully competent" to plead guilty. She set a hearing to accept the plea for Friday at 3:30 p.m. (3:30 a.m. Saturday in Manila).

The sentencing phase will come later.

Moussaoui, a French citizen of Moroccan descent, is the only person charged in connection with the attacks on the United States that killed nearly 3,000 people in New York and Washington.

Brinkema met with Moussaoui and one of his lawyers to determine whether Moussaoui was mentally fit after he wrote a letter to her and prosecutors saying he wanted to plead guilty.

A spokesperson for Moussaoui's mother, Aicha el-Wafi, said she disagreed with the findings about her son's mental state.

"She doesn't feel he is competent to enter a guilty plea," said el-Wafi's lawyer, Randall Hamud. "The arduous conditions of his confinement have taken a toll. She feels no one should do anything... until they can get a proper psychological test."

One of Moussaoui's lawyers who opposes the move by his client planned to file a response with the court on Thursday. *Reuters*

Congress ousts Ecuador president

QUITO, Ecuador—Ecuadorean President Lucio Gutierrez was ousted by Congress on Wednesday after a week of increasingly violent protests in which he was accused of abusing his power by meddling with the country's top court.

Gutierrez, the third president of the Andean nation to be toppled amid popular unrest in eight years, was replaced by his vice president after a day of escalating clashes between opposing pro-testers in which two people were reported killed.

A military helicopter flew him out of the presidential palace in colonial downtown Quito after 60 congressmen from the 100-seat chamber voted to oust him for "abandoning his post."

Brazil's foreign ministry said in a statement issued in Brasilia later that Gutierrez was in the Brazilian Embassy in Quito.

Congress named Vice President Alfredo Palacio to serve out the rest of Gutierrez's four-year term that expires in January 2007, but the move drew immediate counter-protests.

Several hundred demonstrators briefly trapped Palacio in the building where he was sworn in and demanded that he dissolve parliament and call early elections.

Palacio, a 66-year-old cardiologist who had been a prominent critic of his former boss and his economic policies, said he would consider an election but could not dissolve Congress. *Reuters*

Zambia mine blast kills 46

LUSAKA—At least 46 people were killed on Wednesday when a blast tore through an explosives factory at a Zambian copper mine, destroying the plant and ripping bodies apart, the country's mining minister said.

"I cannot explain this tragedy which has killed 46 people so far. The entire plant has been razed. Most people were burned badly while others were just in pieces," Kaunda Lembalemba said by telephone from the mine, 400 km north of Lusaka.

Officials said the explosion occurred at an explosives factory on the premises of the Chambishi mine, owned by China's NFC Mining Africa Plc. The mine was not affected by the blast. *Reuters*

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AVERTING SNAP POLLS

Berlusconi quits to form new gov't

ROME—Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi resigned on Wednesday but said he had backing to form a new administration with the same allies, in a move designed to avert snap elections and revive his flagging political fortunes.

"I accept the challenge of forming a new government," he told parliament, bowing to demands from two coalition partners who threatened to withdraw their support unless he resigned and formed a new government. They also demanded a new policy agenda after a heavy defeat in a regional ballot two weeks ago.

He said he had assurances from the four main parties in his center-right coalition, including the rebel Union of Christian Democrats (UDC) and right-wing National Alliance (AN), that they would back his new administration.

"No one has planned a change of parliamentary majority."

The crisis had threatened to tear the coalition apart as the UDC and AN demanded a reduced role in government for the populist Northern League, which wants more autonomy for the rich north of the country.

Speaking with reporters later, Berlusconi said he was planning only a few changes to his Cabinet. A senior government politician said that the industry, health and transport ministers were likely to lose their jobs in the reshuffle.

None of the ministers are members of the Northern League but a "rebalancing" of the coalition could still be achieved if the posts, currently held by Berlusconi's Forza Italia (Go Italy) and non-affiliated technocrats, were to go to the UDC and AN.

Under the terms of the Italian constitution, a prime minister is obliged to resign if he makes major changes to his Cabinet.

Berlusconi put a brave face on the end of his ambition to become Italy's first prime minister in post-war history to lead the same administration for a full five-year term.

"With your confidence and your support, we have written important pages in our country's history," he told a packed upper house (Senate). "With your confidence and your support I am sure we will write many more."

The turmoil was sparked when the UDC quit the cabinet last week. On Tuesday the National Alliance, led by Foreign Minister Gianfranco Fini, threatened to do the same unless Berlusconi changed his program and formed a new government. *Reuters*

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Other faiths still wary of Benedict

VATICAN CITY—One of the trickiest challenges facing Pope Benedict XVI will be to maintain friendly relations with other religions that he upset when he was the Vatican doctrinal enforcer Joseph Ratzinger.

The new Pope, 78, started off on the right foot, pledging in his first official speech on Wednesday to spare no effort to continue the dialogue with other faiths that his predecessor John Paul had made a trademark of his papacy.

Cautious reactions from some religions, however, showed that his long record of staunchly defending Roman Catholic orthodoxy—both as a theology professor in Germany and as top watchdog in the Vatican—weighs heavily in their assessments.

British Catholic author John Wilkins said other religions were bound to be wary because Ratzinger frowned on some of the major conciliatory steps John Paul took, such as the peace prayer summit of world religious leaders he called in 1986.

"There was always a difference between John Paul and Cardinal Ratzinger," he said. Ratzinger took over the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in 1981.

The reaction was strongest from Protestants still offended by his document "Dominus Iesus" (Lord Jesus) in 2000 that dismissed their denominations as "not proper churches."

"The Protestant Federation of France received the news of the choice of Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger as the new pope with concern," its president Jean-Arnold de Clermont declared.

Ratzinger was "the man of Dominus Iesus and non-recognition of other churches" and should now show "a sign of ecumenical openness," he said.

In the United States, Rev. Ted Haggard, head of the National Association of Evangelicals, said John Paul had tried to soften the impact of Dominus Iesus after it caused such upset.

"Now that Ratzinger is the Pontiff, it could potentially go in the wrong direction," he told the religion website Beliefnet. "We don't have the confidence this Pope understands the global nature of the church."

South Africa's Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu, who had hoped for an African pope, called him a "rigid conservative."

"We would have hoped for someone more open to the more recent developments in the world, the whole question of the ministry of women and a more reasonable position with regards to condoms and HIV/AIDS," he said.

Despite Dominus Iesus, Lutherans praised Ratzinger for the role he played in an accord reached in 1999 which resolved the disputes that led to the 16th century Protestant Reformation.

But the look ahead was cautious. "How this election will effect ecumenism with reformed churches remains to be seen," Lutheran Bishop Johannes Friedrich of Munich said. *Reuters*

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MONDAY TO TUESDAY, APRIL 25-26, 2005
MANDALUYONG CITY
BETWEEN 11:00PM AND 11:30PM (MON., 04/25/05) AND THEN BETWEEN 6:30AM AND 7:00AM (TUE., 04/26/05) – PORTION OF CIRCUITS MANDALUYONG 52VD AND 54VD
Portion of Shaw Blvd. from Samat St. to Epifanio De los Santos Ave. (EDSA) in Bgy. Highway Hills.
BETWEEN 11:00PM (MON., 04/25/05) AND 7:00AM (TUE., 04/26/05) – PORTION OF CIRCUITS MANDALUYONG 52VD AND 54VD
Portion of Samat and Calbayog Sts. from Liberlad St. to Shaw Blvd. in Bgy. Highway Hills.
REASON: Replacement of rotten poles along Calbayog St in Bgy Highway Hills, Mandaluyong City.

MANILA (QUIAPO)
BETWEEN 11:30PM AND 12:00MN (MON., 04/25/05) AND THEN BETWEEN 4:00AM AND 4:30AM (TUE., 04/26/05) – PORTION OF CIRCUIT TEGEN 511B – SAMPALOC 41K
Portion of J Nepomuceno (Tanduay), Aguila, R Hidalgo and De Guzman Sts. from Meralco-Tegen substation to near Gonzalo Puyat St. including Fotohaus, Granada Educational Foundation, Nican Devt. Corp. and Manuel L. Quezon University in Quiapo.
Along Bilibid Viejo, Sergio H Loyola (Lepanto), R Papa, N. Reyes (Morayta), P Paredes Sts. and España Blvd. from near J. Nepomuceno St. (Tanduay) to near Catalina St. including De los Santos Ave., Gastambide, San Anton, Aranga Sts FEU Hospital (Dr Nicanor Reyes Medical Foundation), FEU (Administration, Law, Nursing, Arts & Science Park), The University of Manila, Ever Emporium, Mary Chiles Hospital and San Sebastian College.
BETWEEN 11:30PM (MON., 04/25/05) AND 4:30AM (TUE., 04/26/05) – PORTION OF CIRCUIT TEGEN 511B – SAMPALOC 41K
Along J. Nepomuceno St. (Tanduay) from near C. Aguila St to near Bilibid Viejo St in Quiapo.
REASON: Various maintenance work along J. Nepomuceno St (Tanduay) in Quiapo Manila.

TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 2005
LAGUNA (LOS BAÑOS)
BETWEEN 8:00AM AND 8:15AM AND THEN BETWEEN 4:45PM AND 5:00PM – THE WHOLE OF CIRCUIT LOS BAÑOS 31WT
Portion of PNR Railroad Track and San Luis St. from near Los Baños National Road to and including Dairyville Subd., Pleasant Village, Hillside Subd., L. A. Village, Bos Buot and Putho-Tuntungin.
Portion of Silangan Groove from near International Rice Research Institute to Lopez Ave in Bo San Antonio.
REASON: Replacement of rotten poles along Makban-Biñan 69 kV transmission line

CAVITE
BETWEEN 9:00AM AND 9:15AM AND THEN BETWEEN 1:45PM AND 2:00PM – THE WHOLE OF CIRCUITS TANZA 32ZW AND TERNATE 31ZO
Portion of Antero Soriano Highway from Meralco-Tanza substation to Meralco-Ternate substation including Amaya School of Home Industries, Summer Crest Village, Union Glass, Calibuyo Road, Calibuyo Health Center, NIA-Calibuyo, Mark Ernie Beach Resort, F & E de Castro Beach Resort, Lambingan Capipisa, Fortune Beach Resort, Costa del Sur, Garden Coast Beach, Sto. Niño Beach Resort, Bgy. Halayhay in Tanza; Naic Cockpit Arena, Hacienda Lontoc, Timalan Heart Center, Rikitoy Beach Resort, Punta Grande Beach Resort, Aroma Beach Resort, Medicare Community Hospital, Naic Ice Plant and Cold Storage, Caputatan Rice Mill, Bgys. Timalan, Munting Mapino, Silangan Ibayo, Halang, Palangue-1, Palangue-3, Malainen, Molino, Malainen-Luma and Muzon in Naic.
The whole of Maragondon, Magallanes and Gen. Aguinaldo
REASON: Repair work inside Meralco-Tanza substation.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 2005
CAVITE (GEN. TRIAS)
BETWEEN 8:00AM AND 3:00PM – PORTION OF CIRCUITS FCIE 43WB; AND GATEWAY 414WP
Portion of Gen. Trias – Amadeo Highway (M. De los Reyes) from near Bgy. Javalera to near Halang River.
Portion of Berenguer St. from near Intel CV1 Bldg. to near Gen. Trias – Amadeo Highway (M. De los Reyes) in Gateway Business Park, Bgy. Javalera.
REASON: Various maintenance work along Gen. Trias – Amadeo Highway in Bgy. Javalera, Gen. Trias, Cavite

QUEZON CITY
BETWEEN 9:00AM AND 2:00PM – PORTION OF CIRCUIT BALINTAWAK 57E
Along White St from Banlat Road to and including Delta Village, Jem-9 Subd., Jem-10 Subd., Carmel-5 Subd., Kimco Subd and Apo Villa Subd. in Bgys. Tandang Sora and Sauyo.
REASON: Replacement of rotten poles and correction of leaning poles inside Apo Villa Subd. and Carmel-5 Subd in Bgy. Tandang Sora, Quezon City.

THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 2005
LAGUNA (STA. CRUZ AND PILA)
BETWEEN 9:00AM AND 3:00PM – THE WHOLE OF CIRCUITS STA. CRUZ 32WF, 33WF, 34WF AND 35WF
The whole towns of Sta. Cruz and Pila.
REASON: Transco maintenance work along Caliraya – Sta. Cruz 69 kV transmission line

THURSDAY TO FRIDAY, APRIL 28-29, 2005
VALENZUELA CITY
BETWEEN 11:30PM AND 12:00MN (THU., 04/28/05) AND THEN BETWEEN 4:00AM AND 4:30AM (FRI., 04/29/05) – PORTION OF CIRCUITS BAGBAGUIN 410YZ AND 415YZ
Portion of Paso de Blas Road from T. Santiago St. to near Metrobank including Genwood, Moldex Products, Luzon Mahogany Lumber, Asiatic Pulps & Paper Mill, G. Angeles and P. Santiago Sts. in Bgy. Paso de Blas.
BETWEEN 11:30PM (THU., 04/28/05) AND 4:30AM (FRI., 04/29/05) – PORTION OF CIRCUITS BAGBAGUIN 410YZ AND 415YZ
Portion of Bagbaguin and Paso de Blas Roads from G. Molina St. to near Malinta Interchange including IRC Compound and Goodyear Industrial Compound in Bgys. Paso de Blas and Bagbaguin.
REASON: Relocation of facilities along G. Molina St and Bagbaguin Road in Bgy. Bagbaguin and Paso de Blas, Valenzuela City

FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 2005
QUEZON CITY (NOVALICHES)
BETWEEN 12:01AM AND 2:00AM – PORTION OF CIRCUIT NOVALICHES 48YJ
Portion of Quirino Highway (Novaliches-Ipo Road) and Gen. Luis Road from Meralco-Novaliches substation to near Pasacola St. including T. S. Cruz Subd., Millionaire's Ville, Buenamar Subd., Magno Subd., Ramirez Cpd., San Agustin St., Villa Verde Homes, Dumalay St. and Q. C. Greenfields Subd. in Bgy. Novaliches Proper.
REASON: Various maintenance work along Tandang Sora Ave. and Quirino Highway in Novaliches, Quezon City

FRIDAY TO SATURDAY, APRIL 29-30, 2005
LAGUNA (CABUYAO)
BETWEEN 11:00PM (FRI., 04/29/05) AND 1:00AM (SAT., 04/30/05) AND THEN BETWEEN 5:30AM AND 6:00AM (SAT., 04/30/05) – PORTION OF CIRCUIT BALIBAGO 65XV – CANLUBANG 64XE
Asia Brewery Compound in Bo. Sala.
REASON: Various maintenance work along Balibago–Canlubang 115 kV transmission lines.

SATURDAY, APRIL 30, 2005
LAS PIÑAS CITY
BETWEEN 8:00AM AND 0:30AM AND THEN BETWEEN 3:30PM AND 4:00PM – PORTION OF CIRCUIT AYALA - ALABANG 414WR
Portion of Alabang-Zapote Road from Don Manolo Blvd. to and including Manila Doctor's Road, Mayuga Road, Mayuga Compound, Veraville Homes I, Veraville Subd., Manila Doctor's Village, San Francisco Subd., Francel Homes, DBP Housing, T. S. Cruz Subd., Castillo Park Subd.; DBP Ave., Lovina, Ocampo, Licaros, Zalamea, Virata, T S. Cruz, Sampaguita, Aster, Rosal, Ilang-ilang, Bougainvilla, Dahlia, Gladiola, Jasmin, De la Rosa, San Francisco, Acacia, Banaba Sts.; Wilcon Builder's, Aurora Arcade, Arco Pulp & Paper, Don Manano Lim Complex, Saniwares, Asia Retail Corp., Smart Communications, Doña Martha Bldg., Double Fashion, Phil Data Networking, Metro Inc., La Fuerza, Toyota-Alabang, BOIE and portions of Concha Cruz Drive and Buencamino St. in Bgys. Almanza Uno and Almanza Dos
BETWEEN 8:00AM AND 4:00PM – PORTION OF CIRCUIT AYALA - ALABANG 414WR
Along CRM Ave. from Alabang-Zapote Road to near CRM Gloria St. including Goodyear Park Subd., Falcon, St. Joseph, Divine, Cadena de Amor Hospital, Annie, Amelita, Smiling, Betty, Lovely, Carol Dulce Sts.; Las Piñas College, St. Joseph Subd. Las Piñas Doctor's Hospital, BF Homes School, BF Homes-Almanza and Holy Family Church in Bgy Almanza Dos.
REASON: Reconstruction work along CRM Ave. in Bgy. Almanza Dos, Las Piñas City.

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World leaders set to return to Vatican

PARIS—World leaders will return to Rome about two weeks after attending the funeral of the late Pope John Paul II to witness the inauguration mass on Sunday of his successor, Pope Benedict XVI.

German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder and his wife along with the country's president Horst Koehler and his spouse will be present to honor the new pope and fellow countryman Joseph Ratzinger, who was the archbishop of Munich.

Also from Europe, French Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin accompanied by Foreign Minister Michel Barnier will attend the Mass on April 24 with other European leaders such as Portuguese Prime Minister Jose Socrates.

Belgium will be represented by the royal family's heir to the throne, Prince Philippe, and his wife, Princess Mathilde, the Belgian palace said.

Spanish royalty will also be there. King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia will head a delegation including Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Moratinos, Justice Minister Juan Fernando Lopez Aquilar and Defense Minister Jose Bono. *AFP*

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Many feared dead in India train crash

AHMEDABAD, India—A passenger train collided with a stopped goods train in western India on Thursday, killing at least 11 people but authorities said dozens more are feared dead.

Casualty reports varied widely as rescue teams reached the site of the early morning crash in Gujarat state and began removing the dead and injured from the crumpled wreckage.

"Eleven bodies have been recovered. Not more than 20 are feared dead," state police chief A.K. Bhargava said.

But another police officer said dozens were feared killed in the crash. *Reuters*

China, Japan leaders may meet in Jakarta

TOKYO/BEIJING—Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi and Chinese President Hu Jintao are likely to meet in Jakarta this week, Japan said on Thursday, as the two sides sought to halt a downward spiral in relations.

Ties between the Asian powers are at their worst since they normalized relations in 1972. Thousands have demonstrated in cities across China the past three weekends, pelting Japan's diplomatic compounds with stones, bottles and eggs in Beijing and Shanghai.

"I think (the meeting) will be realized," Foreign Minister Nobutaka Machimura told Japanese reporters in Jakarta.

"The first purpose of such a meeting is for the leaders of the two countries to confirm the importance of friendship between Japan and China," he said on Japanese television.

Koizumi leaves for Indonesia later on Thursday to attend the Asia-Africa summit, but there is still no official word on whether he will meet Hu there to try to resolve a row over what Beijing sees as Tokyo's failure to own up to its World War Two aggression. *Reuters*

Bolton faces uphill fight for confirmation

WASHINGTON — The White House accused Democrats on Wednesday of blocking John Bolton's nomination for US ambassador to the United Nations for political reasons, as lawmakers examined fresh information Democrats said pointed to Bolton's abusive behavior.

White House spokesperson Scott McClellan said Democrats were trying to "score political points" with the nomination of Bolton, a hard-line conservative and staunch UN critic.

"It's an ugly side of Washington D.C., it's an unfortunate side of Washington D.C. But we're confident that he will be confirmed," McClellan said.

The Bush administration was scrambling to put Bolton's nomination on track a day after Republicans on the US Senate foreign relations committee were forced to postpone his confirmation vote because of a defection in their ranks.

Ohio Sen. George Voinovich said he was not prepared to vote after Democrats cited a series of new accusations against Bolton of threatening, bullying behavior they said the committee should explore. *Reuters*

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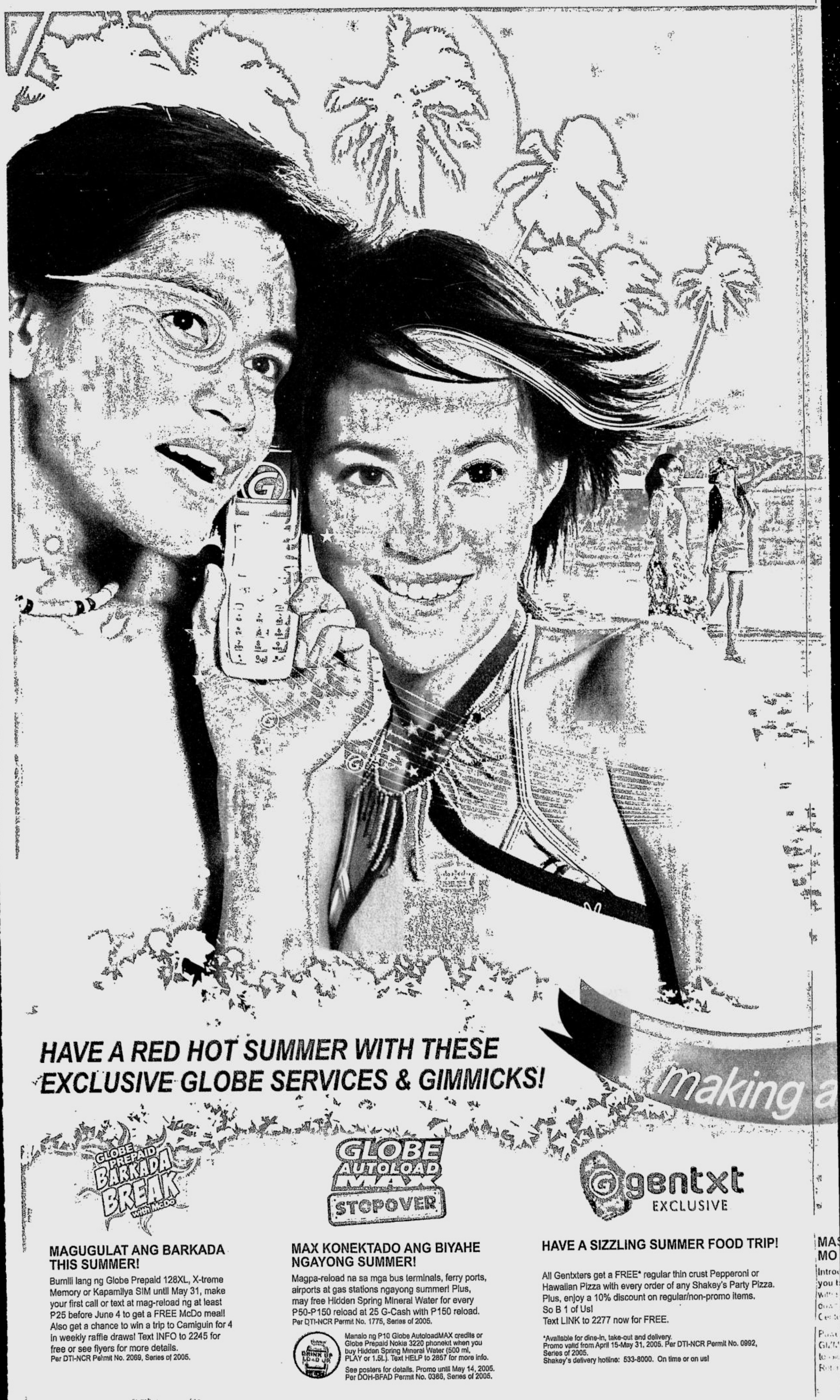

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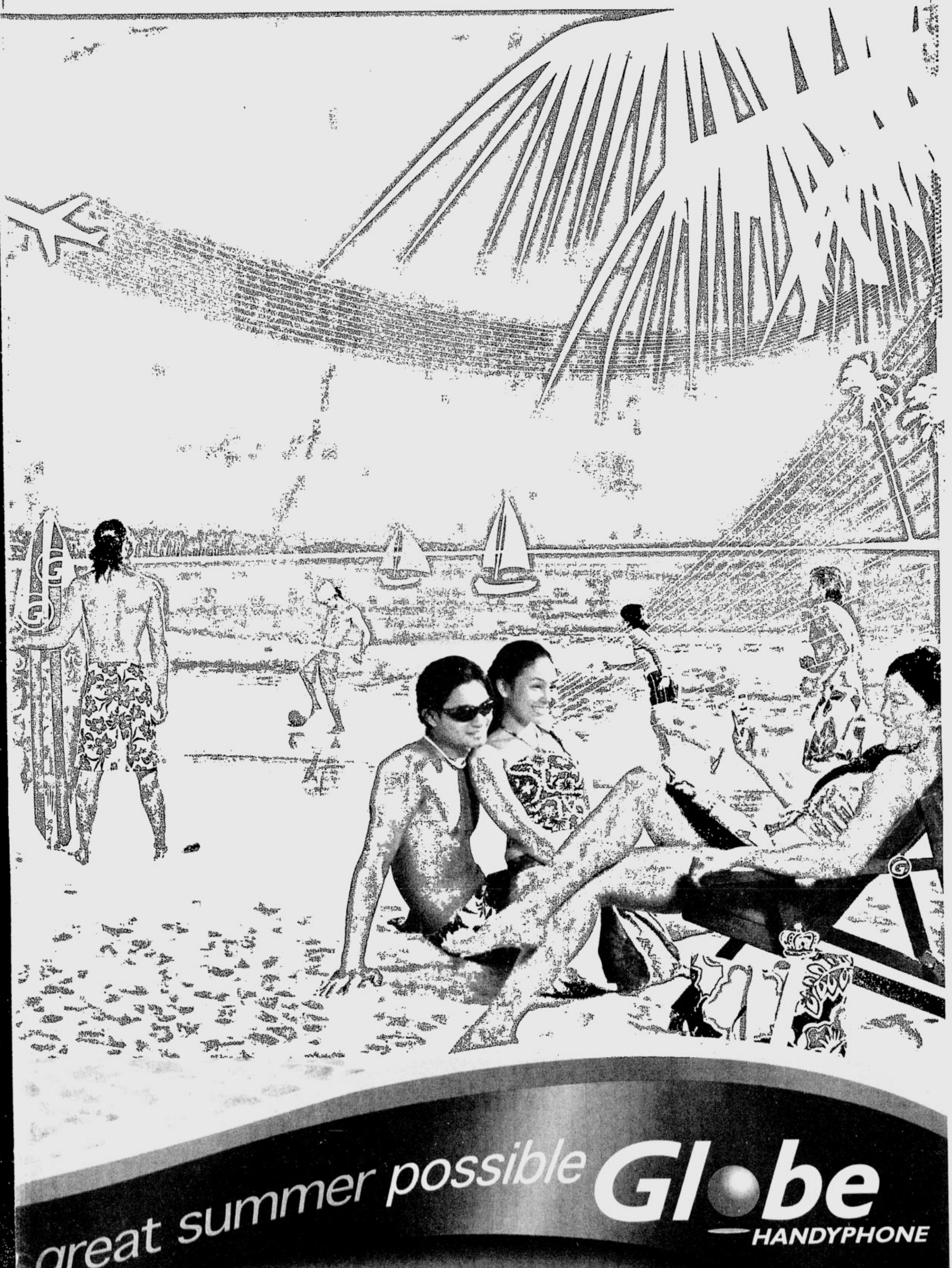

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THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at
•Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
•P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
•Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
•Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 •Advertising 897-4807
•Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.
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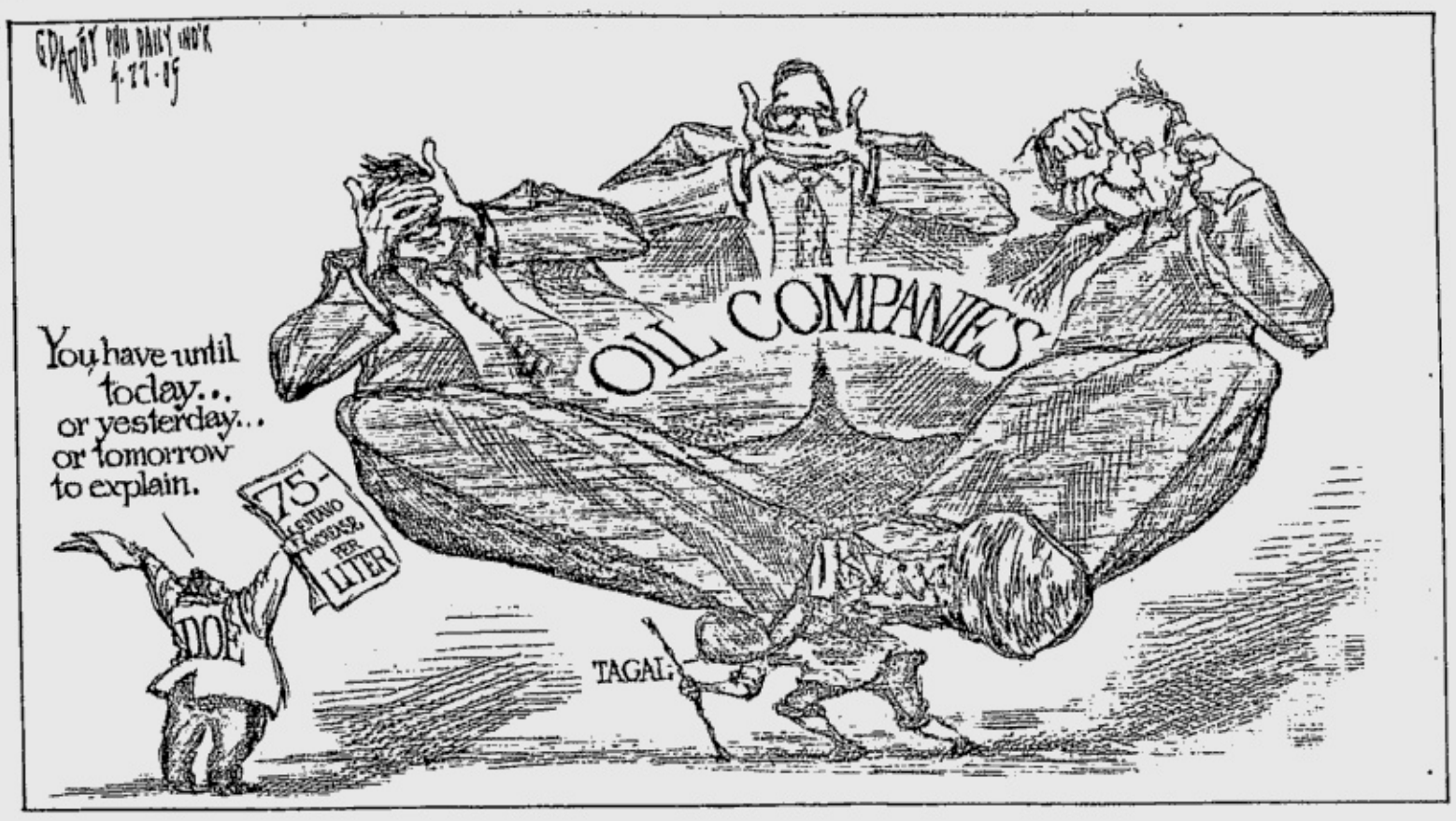

Limp, without energy

EDITORIAL

THE REFRAIN about restoring the regulated oil regime of old in the face of spiraling world prices of crude oil is merely that—a tired refrain that becomes more and more gibberish with every repetition because it does not address the basic problem of all: Where will the government get the money to subsidize regulated prices?

Last Monday's transport strikes pined for the vanished days of the Oil Price Stabilization Fund—when petroleum prices were controlled and passenger fares were low—but they do not respond well to the overriding reality of the new century: high oil prices that are beyond the control of an oil-consuming country like the Philippines.

It must be remembered that the OPSF was abolished because while it provided for a stable regime of oil prices locally, thus insulating the country from price shocks, it also became a fiscal millstone, which was not unusual since a regime of price supports necessarily creates distortions. Since the government had to foot the bill for oil-price subsidies, the people were inevitably, though not too obviously, the losers. If you dam the water, it will find relief elsewhere. You'll have flood just the same, sooner or later.

Now, critics want the oil deregulation law revoked, or at least amended. There are groups clamoring for the government to buy back the controlling stake of Petron so that the government could better and more effectively intervene in the oil market. The suggestion is easily a re-nationalization of the oil company, where Aramco, the Arab oil firm, has as much controlling stake (40 percent) as the government. Will it do the trick?

The proposal has to be closely studied. In any event, it did not help that President Macapagal-Arroyo suggested that Filipinos buy more of their gasoline needs from Petron. Presumably, if Petron's market share were boosted, the oil firm would be in a better position to intervene in the market by offering lower oil prices to shame its competitors.

The suggestion is silly, if a bit insensitive. Petron is almost always in goose-step with the multinationals, such as Shell and Caltex, in raising oil prices. And despite government participation in its management, it has yet to show that it understands the people's plight and cares about them in these hard times; on the contrary, it seems as much ready—even too eager and happy—as the other oil companies to cash in on every oil price increase.

So for the government to ask consumers to buy Petron products and appeal to their sense of nationalism is like asking a victim of theft to make himself more prone to the crime so as to make the criminal syndicate happy. It's like asking somebody whose right pocket has been robbed to bear it and give the left pocket as well to his victimizer, all in the name of a twisted preferential option for highway robbers.

To be sure, the President does not give any assurance that Petron would lower its prices, or keep them stable, if Filipinos buy more Petron products.

There are short-term measures one can do to tame the oil price menace. One of them is energy conservation. The regime of high prices may have compelled motorists and power users to save on oil, but the conservation is not enough. Surprisingly, the government seems in no mood to promote energy conservation. There's hardly any effective and sincere information campaign to urge people and industries to save on fuel and power. Perhaps, the government would like to ensure that Petron will remain the market leader.

The long-term measure is to develop indigenous, non-oil sources of energy. On this score, again, the government has been long on rhetoric and short on action. There's hardly any information campaign, for example, on wind- and solar-energy and other natural-power technologies.

It's quite shocking to consider that despite the fact that the high oil-price regime has been with us for some years now, the government seems still at a loss on initiatives to fix kinks in the deregulated system and to lessen the country's dependence on fossil fuel. It's even directionless and listless when it comes to energy conservation. As far as the oil price crisis is concerned, this government has been one consistent story of extreme enervation.

A kind grandpa

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

I HAVE a feeling that Pope Benedict XVI will be a popular pontiff despite criticisms about his past and his ultra-conservatism. The former Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger has the kind old face of the grandfather everybody would always want to have. He looks so much like a doting grandpa that children will like to hold his hand and call him "*Lolo*."

Pope Benedict XVI is an example of the saying, "You cannot escape your past." At the pinnacle of his life and career, he is now being hounded by his past. As the young Joseph Ratzinger, he became a member of the Hitler Youth and a crewman of a Nazi anti-aircraft unit during World War II; then helped build tank barriers in the Austrian-Hungarian border. He was almost recruited into the dreaded SS secret police. Moreover, his father was a policeman in Nazi Germany, though the family hated the Nazis. The future Pope deserted the German military and became a prisoner of war in southern Germany.

His early life alone is enough to make an exciting movie. Despite this background, still he was elected to be a successor of St. Peter, to lead the world's 1.1 billion Catholics. Doesn't that make him holier than holy?

* * *

I got a letter from Leo P. Wassmer Jr., executive vice president and CEO of the Pharmaceutical and Healthcare Association of the Philippines. He defended the members of his organization from our columns of March 28 and 30, which were about the cartel of multinational pharmaceutical firms here killing Filipino patients with their expensive medicines.

As the letter is quite long, I will summarize its contents and add my comments after each item.

1. There are over 40 multinational firms here and each has a market share less than that of the leading Filipino pharmaceutical firm, United Laboratories (20 percent). It is, therefore, not correct to say that multinationals monopolize the market and operate as a cartel.

Comment: Technicality. If the market is 100 percent and the share of Filipino firms is about 20 percent, then 80 percent belongs to the multinationals, right? That's what I said. And they operate as a cartel because they control the biggest drugstore chain that also controls 80 percent of the retail market.

2. Mercury Drug has 400 branches competing against 12,000 other drugstores. How can that be a monopoly?

Comment: That is also the argument of another cartel, the oil companies. There are many competing oil firms, how can that be a monopoly? But we can all see the result of this situation: obscenely high prices.

True, there are many competing firms (oil and pharmaceutical) but they are all Lilliputian. So there is no real competition. There is still monopoly. The Big 3 (Petron, Shell and Caltex) control 80 percent of the RP oil market; and the multinationals, 80 percent of the pharmaceutical market.

3. It is incorrect to conclude that the prices of medicines here are the "highest in Asia and the world." A study by the Department of Trade in 2000 shows that while some products have higher prices here, there are also products that are priced higher in other countries.

Comment: Nitpicking. Let's lower the prices of those that are high because Filipinos can't afford them.

4. The company manufacturing all the branded medicines of multinationals is not a foreign firm. It is not the Bureau of Food and Drugs but the Intellectual Property Office that takes care of patents and other intellectual properties.

Comment: Amen.

5. Two companies reduced the prices of their products because of competition from a local company. This shows how positive market forces can affect the pricing structure of commodities. This example supports the argument that there is really no need for price controls.

Comment: It also shows, very clearly, how the multinationals are taking advantage of Filipinos. They can lower the prices of their medicines, but instead they price them at almost double the fair price. Only when there's another similar but much cheaper product would they lower their price so they won't lose their market share.

* * *

This coming Wednesday, April 27, at 9 a.m., Plaridel, the association of journalists, in cooperation with the City of Manila, will unveil the monument of Marcelo H. del Pilar at the Plaza Plaridel in Malate, across the street from the Manila Zoo and very near Harrison Plaza and the Rizal Memorial Stadium.

Sculptor Julie Lluch made the bigger-than-life statue in bronze. Plaridel and Mayor Lito Atienza, who will lead in the unveiling ceremonies, raised the funds from contributions for the monument.

After the unveiling, there will be brunch at the Front Page on T.M. Kalaw, near the corner of M.H. del Pilar. Journalists are invited to the affair.

* * *

A day before that, on April 26, at 10:30 a.m., will be the blessing of the newly-renovated Pediatric Ward of the Jose Fabella Memorial Hospital at Lope de Vega Street (near the Central Market), Sta. Cruz, Manila.

The public hospital was renovated with the help of the SM Marketing Communications Group, which raised the funds for the project through an auction of masks made by celebrity artists. SM also donated beds, bassinets and various life-saving equipment for the Pediatric Ward Intensive Care Unit, as well as an Activity Center for children.

The Jose Fabella Hospital serves as a referral center for babies born in other hospitals, and as a "catchment" or a "hospital of last resort" for babies turned away from other hospitals. It was here that the celebrated Cervantes triplets were born. Two of them died one after the other because of lack of material aid.

* * *

TODAY'S JOKE: The Catholic flock is now under the care of a German shepherd. *Goot Gott!*

Cambodia's 'Killing Fields' and ours

PASSION FOR REASON

Raul C. Pangalangan

THIS week marked the 30th anniversary of the fall of Cambodia to the Khmer Rouge. We Filipinos are burdened enough with our own day-to-day problems and may know of this tragedy only through the movie "The Killing Fields," about Dith Pran, the local staff of the New York Times who survived to tell his story.

I lectured for a whole week last year in Phnom Penh for the External Programme of The Hague Academy of International Law, on the various international tribunals and truth commissions set up in our part of the world. I visited Tuol Sleng once again, the infamous schoolyard converted into a torture chamber, where 14,000 men, women and children were detained, tortured and killed—in the end, only seven prisoners came out alive. Its second and third floor corridors overlooking the courtyard were ringed with barbed wire because the prisoners preferred to fling themselves to death rather than endure the torture. Each time I visit, I grieve for the Cambodian people and worry for mine.

One cannot resist a fondness for Cambodians and their culture. Yet how can this kindest, gentlest of people, who in their glorious past built the Angkor Wat, be capable of the cruelty of Pol Pot and his thugs? What does it take to transform tender and sensitive people into murderous beasts, or at least make them look the other way? When does the "gray zone" kick in—as with the guards at Auschwitz and others who were "Hitler's Willing Executioners"—that "murky world of mixed motives, conflicting emotions ... reluctant choices and self-serving opportunism ... wedded to self-deception and denial"?

I toured Tuol Sleng with European professors who were shocked into silence as I was. One of them remarked later that he had expected something more of a museum—I suppose, something more artistic like those in European memorials, in contrast to the rawness, the "actual-ness" of the horror that was etched on the walls of Tuol Sleng. But, perhaps, it is that plainness, the facts bare and unmediated by someone else's aesthetic, that for this Asian professor made Tuol Sleng so compelling.

The genocide itself happened within three and a half years, to be exact, from April 17, 1975 when Pol Pot's dour, black-shirted troops entered Phnom Penh, until Jan. 6, 1979, when the Vietnamese invaded Cambodia and ended the carnage. In that time, 1.7 million lives were lost in a population of 8 million. King Norodom Sihanouk had proclaimed neutrality during the Vietnam War, but he was ousted in 1970 in a US-backed coup. Sihanouk sought refuge in Beijing (allying himself with the Cambodian communists, whom he called the Khmer Rouge), as the coup leader, General Lon Nol, went on to to allow the United States to use Cambodian territory to attack Vietnam.

The Khmer Rouge ordered all cities to be evacuated overnight, claiming American bombers were on their way. They abolished private property, money, all organized religion, courts of law, and extolled the purity of the revolution. They sent entire families to live in collective farms. And when famine and demoralization set in, the Khmer Rouge looked to its own people for scapegoats and thus "combined astonishing brutality with astonishing stupidity."

I have seen a documentary of a Khmer Rouge leader explaining that they emptied the cities because they had underestimated the city's population, and thus had to send the people to the farms in order to feed them. What struck me was his sober, rational, cool and almost nonchalant air; one could scarcely imagine that he was talking about a reign of terror that brutalized millions.

After the fall of the Khmer Rouge, the world looked the other way, as Cambodia was caught in superpower politics, and the United Nations continued to recognize the Khmer Rouge as its true representative. Even today, the Khmer Rouge remain unpunished for fear of destabilizing the country (hmm, sounds familiar), and the Khmer Rouge genocide tribunal, which has taken so long to be created by its parliament and is limited in its scope, might yet be overtaken by the natural deaths of the accused. (Pol Pot has died and, if all goes well, should be burning in hell by now.)

As I read Robert Francis Garcia's "To Suffer Thy Comrades," which talks about the purges of the Philippine Left during the 1980s, I felt an eerie déjà vu of the self-assuredness of Khmer Rouge brutality. Conservative estimates place the toll at some 2,000 victims (others, as high as 4,000), when friends callously tortured friends thought to have betrayed their revolution. Jonathan Spence has written: "It is one of the tragedies of writing about tragedy that the weight and texture of words matter unduly, for suffering needs a measure of grace to be bearable to others." Garcia lived to give us the words by which to feel and bear that tragedy. He now heads PATH or Peace Advocates for Truth, Justice and Healing, an NGO that aims to establish a truth commission, realizing that for the victims, telling their story and making us listen are part of their claim to justice.

Cambodia has yet another lesson for Filipinos. Once again our leaders have taken the side of history's villains in Burma, who have ignored the democratic mandate of opposition leader Aung Sang Suu Kyi and continue to harass and "salvage" her followers. Thirty years after Pol Pot the Philippines has joined several of its Asean brethren in being soft-hearted toward the Burmese generals, when all they are being is soft headed. Look back at Cambodia's killing fields your excellencies, and read Garcia's sad account and realize: It could have been us.

* * *

Comments to raulcp@info.com.ph

Warning signals

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

ALTHOUGH the trial of former President Joseph Estrada on plunder charges has dragged on for nearly five years, public interest in him has not waned. For a president who has been demonized since he was toppled from power, it is amazing that, according to the latest public opinion surveys, there are more Filipinos who have "much trust" in him than those who have "little trust" in him.

The February-March survey of the Social Weather Stations shows that 44 percent of those polled have "much trust" and 36 percent have "little trust," giving him a plus-9 net trust rating. Prior to his overthrow, Estrada, compared with all post-Marcos regime Filipino presidents, had enjoyed phenomenal net satisfaction and trust ratings, which peaked at plus-60 percent in 1999. One would have expected that with the deluge of bad publicity surrounding him during the 1999 impeachment trial and the trial for plunder from April 2001, Estrada would have drowned by now under the avalanche of dirt poured on him.

The fact that Estrada has kept his head afloat cannot be satisfactorily and sufficiently explained by his undeniable charisma. Public attention in him has been revived partly by his occasional capers (i.e., the publicity over his high-profile escapades during his knee operation in Hong Kong last December). Contrary to expectations that the inconclusive nature of the plunder trial might have bored the public to death, the SWS survey shows that 52 percent of the Filipinos followed news stories about the trial, as many as those following the news on proposals to increase taxes.

More Filipinos (44 percent) were engaged in following news stories about the plunder trial (although no new spectacular evidence had been introduced at the trial), than those who followed the renewed fighting in Sulu between the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Moro National Liberation Front. The two recent events that grabbed the attention of Filipinos more than the Estrada trial were the death of Fernando Poe Jr. (79 percent) and the Indian Ocean tsunami (67 percent).

What these figures tell us is, most Filipino have maintained a sustained interest in the trial, that they consider the trial an important issue in which they have a stake, most particularly in the way justice is being pursued by the administration (justice either for Estrada or for those seeking punishment for corrupt officials).

In this sense, this sustained interest in the conduct of the trial is a good sign that should put the administration on guard, with the thought that it is being closely watched on whether the trial is fair or is speedy.

A specially significant finding is that 54 percent of Filipinos think that the pace of the trial "is much too slow," while 34 percent find it is "moving in the right pace," and only 10 percent say it is "too much in a hurry."

This finding sends a strong message to the administration and to the defense panel, and it says that, in the eyes of the people, neither side is faultless for the frustrating delays of the trial. This should assure the prosecution and the government, as well as the Sandiganbayan, that they would receive public backing if they accelerated the pace of the trial.

The government should take note of the fact that it is being watched on whether it is treating Estrada fairly or too harshly or too leniently. The survey found that 48 percent said that the government's treatment of Estrada is "just right," while 27 percent said it was "too harsh" and 24 percent thought it to be "too lenient." In July 2001, 63 percent thought he was being treated fairly (compared to 48 percent last March). So, the longer the trial drags on, the more likely that the number of Filipinos who find that the government is fair in handling the trial will decline.

In July 2001, 24 percent thought the administration was "too harsh" in treating Estrada, and 13 percent, "too lenient"; in March 2005, 27 percent thought the administration was "too harsh," and 24 percent "too lenient."

With the fluctuations of the public perception of fairness or leniency, the overriding concern of the public seems to be to speed up the trial, and the public is showing impatience with the government and the defense, as well as with the judicial system, over the delay. The public is sending the message that the trial cannot go on forever, that it should be terminated before the end of the second administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo, and that the first impeachment trial in the history of this country has to be resolved decisively by the judicial system. Without this resolution, the credibility of the impeachment process to punish high office holders for betraying public trust will vanish.

These are warning signs that if the judicial system cannot be made to work in this country, to punish official wrongdoing, the people will look for other means to punish them. They can turn into a lynch mob and anarchy, a situation which will give opportunity for the army to seize power in the name of restoring public order.

The Arroyo administration has wavered between leniency and toughness in treating Estrada, not exactly for humanitarian reasons, but more for political expediency and short-term gains to earn cheap political points, and for political trade-offs.

The administration has never shown a consistency in pushing for a speedy trial. If impeachment and trial of presidents for plunder or other serious offenses become too tedious, presidents run the risk of losing their heads in a turmoil stemming from the collapse of the judicial processes.

Life after disaster

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

WHILE the media can be quite assiduous in covering breaking stories, especially disasters, our attention span (and that of the public) can be quite brief. As soon as all the deaths and casualties have been counted and reported, the "human interest" stories ferreted out, the horrific and heartbreaking photos published, and the immediate relief and rehabilitation efforts documented, we quickly lose interest.

Rarely are we given the chance to revisit the scene of a disaster, to catch up on the lives of people seeking to recover from near-devastation. But really, we should do this more often, and not just with survivors of cataclysmic events but also with victims of crimes or the daily tragedies that poverty and misery give rise to. Because the reality is that long after the TV cameras and snooping reporters have left, their struggle for survival continues, far from the public's sight. The triumphs they manage to wrangle from the struggle, which truly are more worthy of publicity, take place quietly, unrecognized, but no less significant or newsworthy.

Here's a chance to revisit the scene of a recent devastation, Quezon province, which was hardest hit by the series of storms that slammed through the country late last year. According to official estimates, over 1,600 people died or went missing in that tragedy; 265,000 were displaced; 42,000 houses were destroyed and 146,000 damaged. Agriculture and local economies were left in near collapse in typhoon-affected areas, with some communities remaining isolated for months.

One of the international organizations that responded to the call for help for the rehabilitation of the affected areas was Oxfam International, based in the United Kingdom, which initiated a "cash-for-work" program among the survivors, particularly women who had lost parents, husbands and/or children in the floods and mudslides. Here are some of their stories, as told to Oxfam's field personnel.

* * *

ESTELITA Amerika, 49, of Nakar, Quezon, lost her husband and her mother in the disaster, while her two sons, 13 and 15 years, are still missing. One of her two surviving children, a 16-year-old girl, now works as a helper in Binangonan, Rizal to help the family.

Today, Estelita survives through income she earns from casual work for Oxfam, which includes road clearing, digging irrigation canals and drainages of mud and silt, and other similar activities to rebuild community structures.

"My family is barely able to make it, but we can at least buy food. Although we just make do with vegetables and whatever we can afford to buy. Instead of three meals, we content ourselves with eating twice a day," she said, adding there are times when she prefers not to eat so that her children can have more.

Erma Pedo, 35, of barangay Minahan Sur, shares Estelita's sentiments.

Erma also lost her husband and two children—a 16-year-old boy and an 8-year-old girl—in last year's tragedy. Before the disaster, she used to keep a *sari-sari* store. But because their house was destroyed and nothing was left of their things, her family is starting from scratch.

"I now work as a laundrywoman for some of my relatives. I am working hard so I'll be able to provide for the needs of my family, especially food," Erma noted.

* * *

FOR Sabrina Clete, 35, survival demands that they subsist on vegetables and edible leaves they can pick from nearby trees, or food they can afford from the small amount she earns from Oxfam's cash-for-work project. "On most days, that would mean eating vegetables again or mixing the rice with salt," she said.

A mother to five kids, the oldest of whom is 13, Sabrina said life was already hard even before the disaster struck. Her husband left them more than a year ago and never came back. Sabrina added she is also supporting her 85-year-old father who stays with them. "Before the tragedy, I sold native delicacies in school. I also worked part-time in the farms. But now, I am left with hardly any options, and there is nothing to work on because the fields have been covered with mud."

She admitted that for sometime now, they have been depending on donations and relief goods that were coming their way, and recently on Oxfam's "Cash-for-Work" program. The single mother, however, appealed to the government to give them livelihood opportunities, which can serve their needs for a longer period of time.

Ida Caballes, 48, has 11 children whom she has been supporting single-handedly since her husband died 10 years ago. "I was able to make both ends meet even if I have many children. I owned a sewing machine before, which I used in dressmaking. But the calamity that hit us ruined it."

Just like Estelita, Ida said she and her children have simply resorted to eating fewer meals so the food will last longer. "These are trying times. Life has been made tougher by the disaster. We hope that the government will come up with projects that will not just benefit our families temporarily, but will help the province bounce back and be alive once again."

* * *

LAN Mercado, Oxfam's Country Programme Manager, says the provision of cash to the affected populations in exchange for work rendered for the larger community's benefit is an appropriate intervention in the short-term, as this helps prevent food insecurity, since seeking an income plays a crucial role in the households' coping strategies. "Cash provides households with a degree of choice with regard to their own spending priorities," she added. It also allows women a measure of security and a chance to show their strength and resiliency amid the most trying circumstances.

The '18th' Pope Benedict, not the 16th

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

CABLE TV, the Internet and texting have made the world seem smaller, and these past few weeks, they bridged the distance between us and Rome through the TV and computer screens. Despite the advances in technology, historical method made me surf the different cable channels doing live coverage of John Paul II's funeral. The images were exactly the same, so were the sound and text. It was in the translation of the proceedings and, more importantly, in their commentaries where the channels differed. Depending on the station you were watching or the resource person explaining what was on screen, you had a choice between plain descriptive narration (and often misinformed or misleading opinion) and some really erudite explanations of the colorful rites and rituals of the Vatican.

However, the coverage of the papal funeral and the conclave should alert us to the fact that what appears to be objective or factual news is actually filtered information given a particular viewpoint, bias, or spin; the same story given different shades of color, depending on who is reading the news.

For example, immediately after German Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger appeared on the balcony of St. Peter's as the newly minted Benedict XVI, people wanted to know more about him. While researchers were putting together a brief biography of the man who is now the Pope, TV news had to fill in the vacuum and started by unfairly comparing the poor man with his charismatic and photogenic predecessor John Paul II. While Benedict XVI has written a number of books, these are not so well known outside professional theological circles. The result has been to describe the new Pope on his track record as an "ultra conservative," as a "scourge of liberals," even worse, as "the enforcer." As the head of a Vatican office that used to be known as the Holy Office of the Inquisition, he is being painted into a corner even before he has defined the map of his papacy.

We also tend to forget that Benedict XVI is both a political leader—the head of the State of Vatican City, which is a country smaller in size than the UP Diliman campus—and a spiritual leader to millions of people who call themselves Roman Catholics, practicing or non-practicing. These overlapping functions result in different beliefs and opinions. For example, the conclave can be seen as a mere election of a pope by the College of Cardinals, or it can be seen as an action guided by the Holy Spirit, which explains why the reporting in the Catholic channel EWTN was different from that in the BBC or our very own GMA-7. We must remember to step back from our TV and computer screens and rethink what kind of information we are being fed.

* * *

Even before the late Pope John Paul II was buried, I dug out my copy of "The Oxford Dictionary of Popes" compiled by J.N.D. Kelley. It had gathered a lot of dust on my shelves. I acquired the book long ago when, as an overzealous monk, I resolved to read it cover to cover during Lent, both as an act of research and as an act of penance. I never got past Page 5, so opening the book again unleashed a flood of happy memories, especially memories of the readings done during meals in monastic or religious communities. Many monastics dreaded the classic multi-volume "Lives of the Popes," which often caused indigestion instead of providing edification during meals.

It is the appropriate time to brush up on some papal history. I started reading up on Benedict XV and, of course, St. Benedict of Nursia, patron of Europe, and founder of the various groups of monastics known as the Benedictines, who are spread worldwide. In the Philippines the most prominent Benedictines are those that run the San Beda and St. Scholastica schools. Since Cardinal Ratzinger is not a monastic and does not seem to have a monastic bent aside from his theological scholarship, it is obvious he was not thinking of St. Benedict when he chose his papal name. I tried in vain to find some connection between Benedict XVI and Benedict XV, who was pope from 1914-22, during World War I. No connection here either, so I turned to the dictionary of popes only to find that there are actually 18 Pope Benedicts, three of whom were not officially recognized and are thus considered "antipopes." To complicate things further, Benedict X, although an antipope, is reckoned in the counting while Benedict XIII and XIV are not; thus we have two sets of Benedict XIII and XIV and they can only be distinguished by checking the years of their pontificate.

If the reckoning of Pope Benedicts leading to the present Benedict XVI can be problematic to a historian, it seems that even the way we count from St. Peter all the way to Benedict XVI has also been a cause of some discussion. While it is accepted that the present Pope's authority traces its roots all the way back to St. Peter, who was commissioned by Jesus Christ as the chief of the apostles, there used to be a school of thought that started counting from St. Linus (c. 66-c. 78) who was—according to the earliest reliable succession lists of the bishops of Rome—commissioned by Saints Peter and Paul when they established the Church in Rome. Thus, technically he is the first bishop of Rome, the first pope. Later on, the counting started with St. Peter, and thus St. Linus became the second pope.

What appears like hair-splitting just illustrates that research will reveal that the pope, the papacy and everything else in the world are more complicated than can be contained in a sound byte.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Tea

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

"THIS is awful," complained Stephanie, one of my fellow participants in a meeting here in California as she stared into her cup.

Immediately, I knew what she was referring to. "Your tea smells like coffee, right?"

I love tea, which is why I get upset when even the finest hotels serve tea that smells like coffee. It happens when they brew the tea in coffee-makers, or when they put hot water into urns used earlier for coffee.

I used to think that happened only in the Philippines but here I am, suffering from this blasphemy as well in the States. And I'm realizing how our disdain for tea comes as part of our American colonial hangover.

But I'm not going to whine through this column about the lack of good tea in the Philippines, or in the States. What I'll describe instead is the curious journey tea has made, and here I refer specifically to a plant whose official botanical name is *Camellia sinensis*, a name that acknowledges tea's Chinese origins. From China, tea made its way across the world, and while there has been little variation in its names—tea, *tsa, teh*—it is amazing how much cultural variation there is in the way tea is cultivated, prepared and consumed. The colors of tea—black, green, white—actually result from differences in the way the leaves are dried and oxidized, with each color category divided into dozens of varieties. In some societies, tea-drinking has become art and ritual; but in others—sadly, the Philippines included—it is trivialized and downgraded.

The 'tao' of tea

Legend has it that a Chinese emperor accidentally discovered tea about 2,500 years ago when the leaves from a tea plant—not recognized then as tea—accidentally dropped into his drinking vessel containing hot water. So captivated was the emperor by the taste of this plant that he had it cultivated. Today, the tea plant remains one species but with all kinds of varieties, some of the variations resulting from plant breeding, others from the way the harvested leaves are processed.

Tea reached Japan quite early, and the Japanese eventually developed elaborate tea rituals, literally translated as the "*tao* of tea," the *tao* here referring to "the way." Both in China and Japan, tea drinking reflected a philosophy, a way of life. Depending on what you drank, with whom and where, tea-drinking could be leisurely or it could be heavy with decorum on the way the leaves are prepared (or whisked in Japan), the way water's poured, and the way a cup is offered to guests.

Variations on these rituals are repeated every day in thousands of teahouses and homes, so that tea becomes a symbol of hospitality. When you're raised in such an environment, the difficulties with getting good and properly prepared tea can be quite disconcerting.

High and low tea

I tend to think of China, Japan and some Southeast Asian countries (e.g., Vietnam) as "high-tea" societies, with tea as the object of gourmet appreciation. In such societies, tea is appreciated as tea. The best tea leaves should actually be fresh, bought from stores found throughout China, still in tin urns rather than in packets. You see customers smelling the tea leaves, able to tell how good and fresh they are. An aunt of mine once taught me, in Shanghai, how to detect fresh Dragon Well (*lung jing*) green tea: "Watch them dance." She was right, as soon as she poured boiling water into a cup with fresh green tea leaves, they took their formations, moving through the water like ballet dancers.

The Chinese tend to be strict with their tea. There are floral teas, where dried flowers (e.g., roses) can be made into a beverage, but *Camellia sinensis* is usually best appreciated without any additions. Thus, tea connoisseurs will tell you jasmine tea is actually inferior tea, the jasmine flowers used to camouflage its poor quality.

Tea time

In contrast with East Asian countries, there are "low tea" societies where tea drinking is, well, more adventurous. I think of *chai*, Indian tea, where black tea is boiled with milk, cinnamon, clove, cardamom and other spices. The British are gentler, mixing their tea with milk and sugar. The British, too, developed "tea time" which also has two versions: high tea, where tea is taken together with beef and mashed potatoes to make a meal in itself; as opposed to low tea, an equivalent of our *merienda*, the tea taken with biscuits. The British also developed tea gardens, where you could take tea, and where tips were invented: in these gardens there were boxes labeled TIPS (To Insure Prompt Service).

The Americans—then under the British—loved their tea until it became a political issue. The British kept imposing new taxes including, yes, a tea tax in 1767. The American colonists rebelled by buying their tea from the Dutch, while the women launched a boycott movement. In 1773, marking their protest against the British, the Americans dumped hundreds of pounds of English tea into Boston harbor.

The Americans didn't quite give up tea. They invented tea bags in the 20th century, so American indeed with its brutal convenience. There's no way you can ritualize drinking tea in bags, especially because they usually taste so bad. Since most local (and American) restaurants (and airlines) can't offer anything except Lipton or Nestea, terrible tea pretenders, I've learned to bring my own fresh leaves. (If jasmine flowers are used to camouflage inferior Chinese tea, Nestlé intoxicates you with sugar, the tea becoming an almost incidental flavor.)

In low-tea societies like our own, the problems don't stop with Lipton and Nestea. Even good tea turns bad when it's improperly prepared. I've mentioned the use of water from coffee urns. Another mortal sin is using bad water—either tap water, whose chlorine destroys the taste of good tea, or improperly boiled water. And don't forget—it reflects your lack of breeding if you first pour in water and then add the tea leaves. Even the best *lung jing* tea won't break out into their ballet if you subject them to that atrocity—they'll sit glumly on the surface of the water. Eventually, they commit suicide, sinking to the bottom without ever releasing their best flavors.

I notice more Filipinos are catching on to tea, partly because it's becoming a fad too in the States. But the fad involves teas heavily scented with fruits or flowers. There are also all kinds of health claims being made for tea, especially green tea. If you want to try them, go to Chinatown and ask for real tea, not jasmine, not Lipton, not Nestea. It's an acquired taste, but once you pick up the habit, it'll be a hard one to break.

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LETTERS

NWRB misleading people

THE WATER for the People Network (WPN) challenges the National Water Resources Board to lay down all its cards instead of misleading the people on the proposed raw water pricing scheme.

Reacting to the statement of the WPN, which described the proposal as outrageous, NWRB executive director Ramon Alikpala replied that there are no plans to impose regulatory fees for domestic users who extract water directly from sources.

May we remind Alikpala that when news about raw water pricing first came out in September last year, the NWRB said that its proposal would deter excessive water extraction especially among deep well owners, including ordinary households. When the news resurfaced this month, Alikpala was quoted as saying that raw water pricing is an economic instrument that would make anybody who uses water from rivers, etc. pay on a per-volume basis.

Notably, Alikpala's latest statement does not guarantee that the NWRB's proposal will not further marginalize the poor in terms of access and control over water. Under the proposal, all water utilities will be required to pay the raw water fee, which ultimately will be shouldered by the consumers, the poor taking the hardest impact. This will be true not only in Metro Manila. Even the people in remote barangays will be forced to bear this additional burden.

We agree with the NWRB that there is a need to conserve water. But an economic approach to water resource management (which is what raw water pricing is) is not the best solution; it disadvantages poor social sectors. An effective conservation and rehabilitation program of our water resources must be pro-people. One way of doing it is to terminate corporate logging, large-scale corporate mining and similar large-scale corporate exploitation of natural resources, as well as large development projects (like mega dams) because they destroy freshwater ecosystems.

We agree with the NWRB that there is a need to increase its budget so it can better carry out its mandate and serve the people. And we hold the national government accountable for neglecting important agencies, like the NWRB and vital services and projects, like water supply and sanitation, irrigation, and environmental protection and conservation, while allocating 50 percent of its expenditures for debt servicing. In this sense, raw water pricing becomes even more immoral.

We stand by our demand for the NWRB to junk its raw water pricing plan. Water is a condition of life, and it is government's mandate to ensure that people—with due bias to the poor and marginalized—have access to it.

—ARNOLD PADILLA,
coordinator,
Water for the People Network,
Room 303, SCC Bldg.,
4427 Interior
Old Sta. Mesa, Manila,

SSS retirees: a forgotten minority

THE MONTHLY pension of Social Security System retirees, on the average, is barely enough to cover the cost of maintenance medicine and living expenses. With the price of basic commodities going through the roof and the purchasing power of the peso weakened by inflation, no amount of belt-tightening can solve the fiscal crisis hounding SSS retirees, most of whom are in the sunset of their lives. It's high time that our legislators take up the cudgels for this forgotten minority.

There have been reports of a pending bill in the House of Representatives pegging the monthly pension of the SSS retirees to P5,000 a month. Is this proposed bill gathering dust in the archives?

As far as I can remember, two increases of 10 percent were given during President Aquino's time, and once during President Ramos'. Since then, no increase has been given; none during President Estrada's watch; and none with President Macapagal-Arroyo in Malacañang.

In the United States, the cost of living allowance (Cola) is given to retirees. This is an annual increase linked to the Consumer Price Index.

Despite the paltry amount that our retirees are getting, they have kept their patience. They have not stormed the streets in protest; neither have they waved red flags or grabbed bullhorns to air their sentiments. Perhaps, they still believe there's a silver lining behind the dark cloud.

—FELICISIMO M. ESCUADRO,
8 Magsaysay Rd.,
Potrero, Malabon City

On preserving Manila's remaining parks

VOICES ON INQ7.NET

(Editor's note: Comments are in reaction to a column on the Arroceros forest park by INQ7.net columnist Sylvia Mayuga. Her latest columns can be found at INQ7's Viewpoints section: http://news.inq7.net/viewpoints/)

AS a Filipino expatriate who visited Manila last year, the Arroceros "forest" was one of the few sites I went to because of the trees, which reminded me of my childhood in Bicol where such places are aplenty—at least, in my memory. Unable to go back to Bicol for lack of time, I savored and enjoyed the "forest" so much that I visited it twice. In fact, in there, I felt I was not in polluted Manila but in some pollution-free countryside.

Journalists should write more about this idiotic campaign to kill the remaining "lung" of the City of Manila.

Kudos to your effort in bringing into the mainstream media the controversy surrounding the Arroceros site.

What is the Arroyo administration's reaction to the issue? Nothing, because trees do not vote.—**Renato Perdon, 1/24 Addison St., Kensington, NSW 2033 Australia**

* * *

I was just in Manila. Metro Manila is too crowded because everyone seems to build on every open area. I say that all mayors should make it a policy to "buy back" open spaces and turn them into soccer fields, baseball parks, jogging trails, or "mini parks" with trees and playpens for small kids.

The place is already crowded and over populated, why construct more buildings?—**Joe V., 10 Tomaso Ct., San Francisco, CA 94134**

* * *

Hurray for your championing the right of [a] forest to exist in the City of Manila. Central Park in New York remains vibrant because every day vigilant New Yorkers fight to protect it against encroachment of "useful things," such as more restaurants, condos, co-ops, tennis courts for the city, a larger museum, etc. etc. etc.

But vigilance is the price of a healthy environment. Keep on.—**Loida Nicolas-Lewis, Suite 1435, 115 East 57th St., NY, NY 10022**

* * *

Thank you for your article about the Manila mayor's disregard of the value of Mehan Garden and Arroceros Park which are not just natural treasures but also cultural heritage sites. It's really sad and frustrating to know that a supposedly educated mayor can be so senseless and irresponsible with such priceless assets.

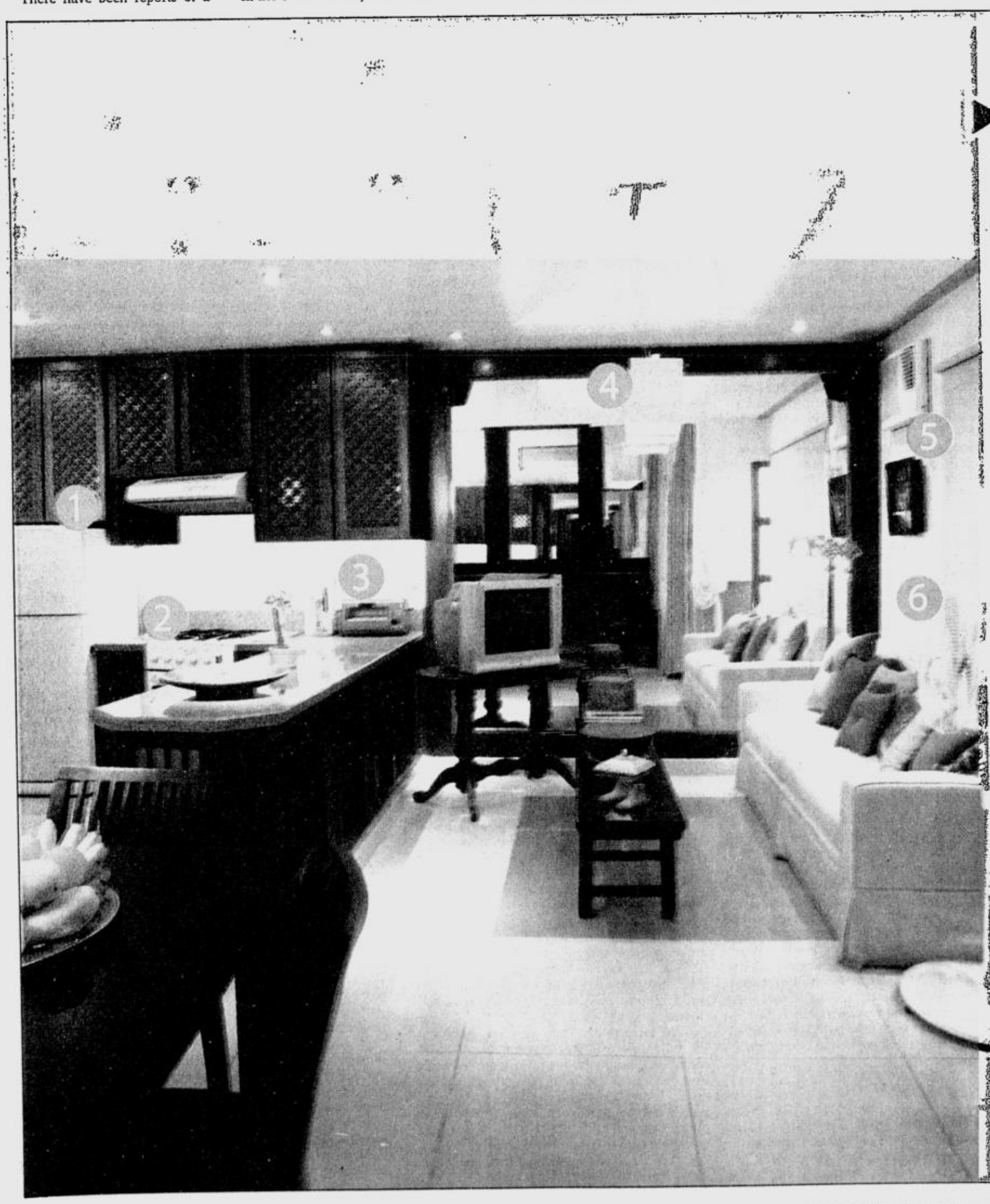
Talking about bottom lines, the economic value of Arroceros Park should be high enough if its non-market value is factored in. Like the Vatican's Sistine Chapel, it should indeed be priceless. Just imagine if the Vatican had to sell its cultural heritage just to keep its finances out of the red!

Even the World Bank now recognizes the economic value of cultural heritage sites, including their non-market values. The bank's safeguard policies encourage borrowing states to assess whether or not a development project is likely to cause damage to cultural resources.

Also, some countries have been extended assistance to restore or conserve their cultural heritage sites—like the historic Mostar Bridge damaged in the Bosnia-Herzegovina conflict.

Manila is rich in physical cultural assets. Its development planners should consider developing cultural heritage districts producing cultural products to complement the city's tourism industry, as well as to enhance its environmental services. There will also be other benefits—educational, aesthetic, etc.

Of course, the benefits may not be the kind to attract the corrupt.—**Maribel B. Aguilos, 10301 Strathmore Hall St., Rockville, MD 20852, USA**



1. Place refrigerators at least 4 inches from the wall to give it enough room to breathe. Heat can cause the motor and the compressor to use more energy.
2. Switch off the electric stove during the last minutes of cooking. The remaining heat will allow the food to simmer.
3. Unplug all electrical appliances when not in use.
4. Clean bulbs regularly. Dirt lessens illumination by 50 percent.
5. Regularly clean the aircon filter and vacuum the outdoor coil to keep it working efficiently.
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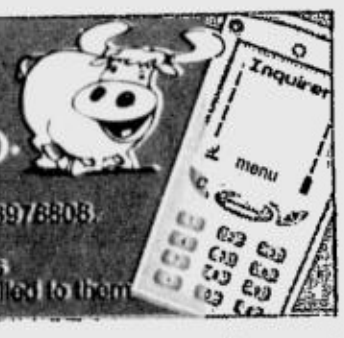

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Ecology damage by veggie imports seen

By Delmar Cariño
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet—The agricultural ecosystem of this province will be endangered should the government allow the importation of Chinese carrots, plant experts at the Benguet State University warned.

Noting that the country is lax in implementing quarantine laws, the experts said importing carrots could lead to the introduction of pests and diseases that may pose a threat to soil fertility and the production of other agricultural crops. "These pests and diseases could lead to an outbreak," they said. The experts' warning came after a review of the pest risk analysis (PRA) on Chinese carrots that the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) had submitted to the agriculture department.

The PRA's approval will give importers the legal basis to bring in carrots from China. The BSU experts' findings and recommendation that the country should not import carrots were contained in a paper which they submitted to the BPI in Manila on April 20 when the bureau called for a consultative meeting on the PRA.

The meeting was picketed by around 300 Benguet farmers who left their farms and hired buses and vans just to be at BPI's office to express their indignation over the PRA.

The BSU team, composed of 12 horticulturists, soil science experts, pathologists and entomologists, said the PRA reported 12 pests and nine diseases found in Chinese carrots.

The same PRA, it said, admitted that two pests—willow aphid and brown wheat mite—are considered "high risk" but can be contained under strict quarantine conditions.

But the BSU experts said most of the 12 pests are not found in the country. "The PRA showed that the 12 pests are also hosted by other high value crops in China which are also grown in the Philippines," they said.

The willow aphid, for instance, "can infect tomato and celery while the brown wheat mite can infect garlic, onions, strawberry, lettuce and rice," they said.

The infestation alone of tomato and celery could lead to a yield loss of P107 million and P13 million for each crop, they said. The diseases contained in Chinese carrots should be another cause for concern, they said, explaining that two of them—alternaria radiccina and agrobacterium rhizogenes—may affect soil fertility.

"And we could not simply control these two diseases since we do not practice soil fumigation," said Dr. Asuncion Nagpala of BSU's pathology department.

The experts said the BPI team sent to China failed to study the soil condition of the farms where the carrots would come from. "No soil analysis was conducted . . ." they said.

Group says Army bombed Samar villages, blocked food supply

By Joey A. Gabieta
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—The military has resorted to indiscriminate aerial bombing and food blockade to flush out communist guerrillas in Northern Samar towns, resulting in the evacuation of families, a human rights group said.

Alex Lagunzad, regional secretary general of human rights group Katungod-Sinirangan Bisayas, said members of the 63rd Infantry Battalion conducted the bombing in Barangay Guibatangan and its adjacent village of Palmera, both interior villages of Pambujan town, Northern Samar on April 19.

He said soldiers used helicopters to unleash bombs on the villages, forcing villagers to flee their homes.

"This indiscriminate . . . attack . . . had resulted in the dislocation of the families who are just ordinary farmers," Lagunzad said, quoting Jonathan Calandes, provincial coordinator of Katungod based in Catarman town.

Lagunzad, however, could not say how many families left the barangays of Guibatangan and Palmera. There were also no reports of injuries or casualties.

He said at least 300 families live in Barangay Palmera while 200 live in Guibatangan.

Lagunzad said for three days now, members of the 63rd IB put up a blockade aimed at stopping the supply of food to rebels in Barangay Happy Valley, an upland village in San Isidro town, also in Northern Samar.

At least 1,000 people live in the area, said Lagunzad.

Col. Manuelito Uzi, commanding officer of the 63rd IB, based in Barangay Opong, Catubig town, also in Northern Samar, admitted that there was indeed an aerial attack on guerrilla targets in the barangays. "But the target was not the residents," he said.

The bombs were aimed at guerrilla positions that happened to be 1 or 2 kilometers from the civilian population, he said.

"And there was no incident of dislocation among the residents. That's an exaggeration," said the officer in a phone interview.

He said he sent his men, with the help of two helicopters, to pursue at least 60 members of the New People's Army who sought refuge in the two Northern Samar villages.

"It was a legitimate military operation and not directed at the community," Uzi said.

He asked human rights workers and volunteers to, "by all means, inform us," if civilians were driven out of their homes as a result of the military operation.

He also said that several of his men were stationed in the two villages as part of the military plan to "ferret out" the NPA members.

Major Gen. Jovito Palparan, commanding general of the 8th Infantry Division based in Catbalogan, Samar, vowed to put down the region's communist rebellion in six months to a year.

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3 militiamen killed in ambush in Basilan

MALUSO, Basilan—Three militiamen were killed during an ambush and a subsequent clash in Bubuan Island in Sumisip town on Wednesday morning, the military reported Thursday.

Brig. Gen. Raymundo Ferrer, chief of the Army's 103rd Infantry Brigade, identified the slain militiamen as Usman Ambotong, Ekal Akalul and Sedik Mahadil.

Ferrer said the militiamen were on their way to market when fired upon by about 20 armed men around 6 a.m.

He said two of the militiamen died on the spot but Akkang managed to return to camp to report the attack.

Ferrer said other militiamen pursued the attackers.

During the clash, another militiaman died while three more were wounded, bringing to four the number of government injuries.

These were Armand Mahadil, Monching Mahadil and John Sali.

Ferrer said the armed attackers fled to Barangay Asbang also in Bubuan Island.

He said the attack, however, could have been triggered by a family feud involving one of the militiamen.

The government is currently in formal negotiations for a peace agreement with the Muslim separatist guerrilla movement Moro Islamic Liberation Front. *Julie Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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-Bourke Coekran

Today, on Earth Day, some 7,000 elementary school children from Nueva Vizcaya and Nueva Ecija have gathered close to 4,000 kilos of Ipil-Ipil and Acacia seeds, their contribution to the larger reforestation effort of CE Casecnan Water and Energy Company to reforest the Casecnan watershed.

The children participated in the Give-A-Seed program of CE Casecnan, which endeavors to develop awareness in the youth of the importance of trees in protecting the environment.

The program is a component of the pilot reforestation project of CE Casecnan, which seeks to rehabilitate the lower Casecnan watershed. It is one of the company's programs intended to build a legacy of a clean and healthy environment for the children and future generations.

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Go ethanol, solon tells Negros sugar planters

BACOLOD CITY—Bukidnon Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri has challenged sugar planters to venture into ethanol production because the three major oil players have already committed to supporting the bill that will require them to blend ethanol with their gasoline.

He pointed out that the biggest hindrance initially to House Bill 2583 was the hesitation of the sugar planters to commit their cane to the production of ethanol.

Zubiri said the farmers were holding on to their cane on the belief that prices of sugar would go up.

"I want to tell them the sad fact that these [sugar] prices are not going to increase," the congressman said. "My appeal to the sugar planters is this is the only best thing for the sugar industry."

Zubiri filed HB 2583 that would mandate the use of bioethanol or ethyl alcohol as transport fuel, and establishing the National Bioethanol Fuel Program for the purpose.

Under the program, the oil companies would be required to mix 5 percent ethanol with their fuel on the first year and 10 percent by the end of the fourth year, said Zubiri who was in Bacolod on Tuesday for the 14th Red Cross National Youth Congress.

The bill was approved by the House committee on energy in March and was up for second reading.

Zubiri said Caltex, Petron and Shell, as well as the small oil industry players, were in favor of the bill and wanted the Department of Agriculture and Sugar Regulatory Administration to commit the sugar needed to produce the ethanol.

During the committee hearings, oil companies explained that they would need 10 to 15 million barrels of ethanol annually if they would mix 10 percent of the ethanol with their fuel.

"At 10 percent that could be the whole sugar output of Negros alone," said Zubiri.

But he said Sugar Regulatory Administrator James Ledesma assured that they would push the farmers to allot at least a portion of their production to ethanol.

Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau

LOYAL SCOUT CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Cavite Gov. Ayong Maliksi congratulates Scoutmaster Sofronio Jimenez for being the most outstanding scout in the province. Jimenez received a gold medal of merit for his 35 years of service in the Boy Scouts of the Philippines. The awarding of most outstanding scouts was held at the Imus Pilot Elementary School.

Health execs worry over fire in Baguio dump

BAGUIO CITY—The city government has failed to stop a three-week-old fire that has been consuming the city's landfill in Barangay Irisan here.

Health officials are concerned about the methane-induced fire's impact on the dump's surrounding villages, including settlers who have crossed from the border community of Tuba, Benguet, said Josefina Chan, city architect and acting environment manager.

The city council, however, refused to declare a state of emergency to get access to funds to help put out the fire.

Mayor Braulio Yaranon suggested this option because the government had been hard put allocating P1.2 million to buy chemical fire retardants, water and soil to stop the fire.

But Councilor Edilberto Tenefrancia said Baguio might not survive another stigma that might be triggered by another calamity alert in the summer capital.

He said the council should be able to divert enough funds to supply what the dump needs.

However, the council closed its regular session on Monday without identifying the possible sources of funds to be used to contain the dump fire.

Chan said the debate has been going on for weeks, with no results. "Let it burn," she quoted a councilor.

The communities closest to the 2.59-hectare dump have learned to live with methane haze that rises every morning there.

"We breathe [that haze] so a little fire should not affect us too much," said a woman living at Irisan.

But other residents have been sending the city government letters, some of which indicated their fears of bigger disasters ahead.

Chan said experts have assured her that the fire would not trigger methane explosions.

But they are worried that unloading soil on waste areas where the fire continues may be too heavy for a retaining wall that separates the dump from Tuba.

The Tuba government earlier sued Baguio over its landfill because of the amount of garbage that washes down to Tuba villages during heavy rainfall.

The council instead started discussions about the landfill's closure.

The National Ecological Solid Waste Management Act requires all local governments to convert dumps into waste management facilities by 2007.

The city landfill is in the process of conversion with the establishment of a composting facility. But the city needs to invest in a larger composting plant to deal with Baguio's daily refuse, which now peaks at 272 metric tons.

The city government has started implementing a waste segregation policy in response to their logistical problems with the landfill.

The council has yet to formulate a solid waste management policy, which was pushed as early as 2000 by Romeo Concio, chief of the city's general services division. Concio used to manage the dump. *Vincent Cabreza, Northern Luzon Bureau*

ROUNDUP

Tension over narra

GUAGUA, Pampanga—The Department of Environment and Natural Resources and its Task Force Sagip Kalikasan on Tuesday seized P3.5 million worth of illegally cut narra after a 19-hour standoff with sympathizers of a wood trader here. The tension in Sitio Sta. Ursula in Barangay Betis began at 5 p.m. on Monday after some residents blocked the entrance of a warehouse where at least 25,000 board feet of narra were kept. Nilo Tamoria, director of the DENR special concerns office and task force deputy chief, identified the owner of the illegal lumber as Chris David. The stock was intended for companies in Betis, the furniture center of Central Luzon. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

One town, one product

CITY OF CALAPAN—The provincial government is pushing for its "one town, one product (Otop)" project as part of the priority programs of President Macapagal-Arroyo. Each town will focus on products to develop—Baco, fresh and processed banana; Bansud, fresh banana; Bulalacao, mango plantation and production; Gloria, bamboo-based products; Mansalay, ethnic craft; Naujan, fresh and processed marine products; Pinamalayan, fresh and processed fruits; Pola, virgin coconut oil; Puerto Galera, marble; Roxas, rice hull-based charcoal briquettes; San Teodoro, agri-tourism; Socorro, dried fish (*biya*), and Victoria, swine production.

Madonna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Anti-mining rally today

CITY OF CALAPAN—Board members Luis Castillet and Claro Recto recently passed a resolution requesting President Macapagal-Arroyo "to spare the beauty and bounty of Oriental Mindoro from large-scale mining operations," citing the 25-year mining moratorium in the province. In Occidental Mindoro, a province-wide anti-mining activity will be held by Kaagapay, a network of non-government and people's organizations in Sablayan. *Madonna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

St. Gregory reunion

THE ALUMNI of St. Gregory the Great Seminary in Tabaco City, Albay, will have their grand reunion at the Immaculate Conception Seminary, FIAT House, Barangay Cabinitan, and Amenia Resort, in Virac, Catanduanes, on April 28-30. For details, contact Fr. Santi Fernandez—8724392 and lawyer Nitoy Arcilla (Manila); Fr. Johnny Lizaso and Ursus de Quiros (Catanduanes); Fr. Dave Ramoso—0524846086 and Mr. Bert David (Albay); Msgr. Cris Bernarte Jr.—0528204603.

Soldier kills 3

AGDANGAN, Quezon—Three persons were killed and a town councilor wounded after an Army soldier run amuck here on Monday afternoon. Police identified the victims as Paulino Gusi, 47, councilor of Barangay Salvacion; Jason Parafina, 27, of Barangay Ibabang Kinagunan; and Romelito Rivera, 41, from Caloocan City. Investigators said the suspect, Cpl. Wilson Altona, shot the victims in a videoke bar in Barangay Poblacion 2. The victims died on the spot from several bullet wounds. Agdangan councilor Juancho Parafina, 38, was seriously wounded and rushed to a hospital in Lucena City. *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Wheel defect grounds Batanes-bound plane

LAOAG CITY—A Batanes-bound Pacific Air plane was grounded at the Laoag International Airport on Thursday after its right wheel failed to roll as it was negotiating the runway.

No one was reported hurt among the eight passengers on board but the plane's pilot, Capt. Alejandrino Sagala, was forced to abort take off when he noticed smoke billowing out of the plane's belly.

The eight-seater Islander-type aircraft was rolling along the runway and was bound for Basco, Batanes, at 6 a.m. when it encountered trouble.

Ronald Estabillo, manager of the Air Transportation Office here, said the plane was still being inspected as of Thursday afternoon.

"The passengers might have been alarmed momentarily. But they disembarked from the plane quietly after the plane rolled to a halt," he said.

He said the aircraft will be allowed to fly to Batanes once the ATO's safety division clears its airworthiness.

Estabillo earlier told reporters that the wheel could have burned had the pilot failed to notice the smoke coming from the plane's belly.

"It would have been big trouble if the plane took off while the wheels were burning," he said. *Cristina Arzadon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Judge junks bid vs NLEx toll

By Carmela Reyes
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CITY OF MALOLOS—A judge here on Tuesday favored the Manila North Tollways Corp. (MNTC) and denied the petition for a temporary restraining order and a preliminary injunction against the collection of increased toll on the rehabilitated North Luzon Expressway (NLEx).

Judge Albert Fonacier, of the Bulacan regional trial court, ruled that granting the petition filed by Rep. Wilhelmino Sy-Alvarado would violate the law protecting the ongoing infrastructure projects of the government.

He urged Alvarado to instead bring his case to the Supreme Court and the Toll Regulatory Board, saying these are the proper venues.

In his 10-page decision, Fonacier said "the lack of showing of extreme urgency involving constitutional issues opts him to adopt a hands-off policy in the matter despite a concern of unacceptability to many."

He said an exception could not be applied to the case filed by Alvarado because the negative effects brought to him and the other petitioners were not clearly established.

"It has not been shown that their right to travel was halted because of the increase in toll fees, although, admittedly it was curtailed, in view of the presence of alternative roads that can bring them to their place of destination," he said in his decision.

Fonacier said the Supplemental Toll Operation Agreement (STOA), the basis of the increased toll fees, has not been shown yet as unconstitutional or void.

On March 7, Alvarado filed a petition following reports that the toll collected by the MNTC were made out of the alleged illegally transacted STOA.

SAF pulled out of quarrying checkpoints

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—Director General Arturo Lomibao, Philippine National Police chief, ordered the pullout of 20 members of the Special Action Forces securing several of Pampanga's quarry checkpoints where alleged irregularities in the collection of sand taxes are taking place.

The recall order came a month after Fr. Resty Lumanlan, chair of the civic group Save Pampanga Movement, questioned the presence of the counter-terrorist troops in the checkpoints.

Lomibao's instruction was received in a letter here on April 13, Chief Supt. Rowland Albano, Central Luzon police director, confirmed to the INQUIRER on Thursday.

No reasons were given for the withdrawal. But Albano said the PNP chief had those policemen investigated mainly over reports they had been allegedly receiving a daily allowance of P1,000 or a total of P600,000 monthly.

"They did get some incentives but these were limited to food, not money," Albano said without saying how much that cost the provincial government.

SAF commander, Chief Supt. Marcelino Franco, denied his men got additional compensation for their duties in five checkpoints in Barangays Gutad and San Jose in Floridablanca, Sta. Cruz and Cangatba in Porac and in Magliman at the boundary of Bacolor and the City of San Fernando.

Their deployment began in September 1998 when former Environment Secretary Antonio Cerilles suspended quarry operations amid reports that illegal fees were being collected on top of the P40 tax per truckload of sand.

The SAF unit stayed on to secure the operations of the environment department's Natural Resources Development Corp., which took over the collection work of the provincial government starting February 1999 on orders of then President Joseph Estrada.

Their duties included securing NRDC personnel that enforced a stop to illegal extraction and hauling of sand.

Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Bishop appeals for Samar roads

By Cyrain G. Cabueñas
PDI Visayas Bureau

BORONGAN, Eastern Samar—Borongan Bishop Leonardo Medroso has asked Public Works Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. to allocate funds for the construction of a road that will connect this capital town to other Samar provinces and for the completion of the airport here.

The bishop told Ebdane that the 72-km road will connect Eastern and Western Samar and will reduce travel time to Tacloban City, Leyte to two hours from four hours.

"Eastern Samar has been neglected for far too long. It's about time the farming communities that don't even have farm-to-market roads delivered their produce on time. This new road will not only be convenient for farmers but for commuters and traders as well," he said.

Medroso said the airport would also bring commerce to Eastern Samar. Manila-bound passengers, he added, would no longer wake up early in the morning just to catch the first flights in Tacloban.

Ebdane said he would try to take a closer look at Medroso's proposal to help the people of Eastern Samar.

Ebdane was here on April 14 on the invitation of Eastern Samar Rep. Marcelino Libanan Jr.

The congressman also accompanied Ebdane to the bishop's residence in Borongan to meet Medroso.

Libanan supported the bishop's idea of building the new road but he expressed doubts on the viability of the airport unless all roads in the whole island of Samar were linked.

He said the national budget for this year will be P900 billion—P400 billion for debt-service payment and only about P300 billion for infrastructure.

Libanan said legislators had to fight hard with other officials just to avail of the funds.

At P10 million per kilometer, the estimated cost of the road construction will be P702 million. Some P60 to P80 million will be needed to fully furnish the airport, which boasts only of a runway to date.

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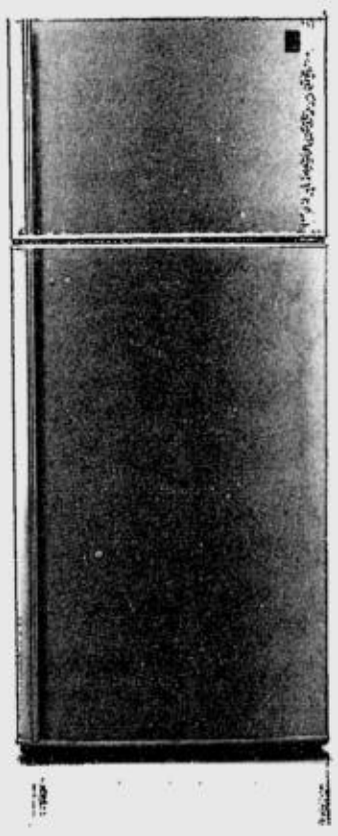

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EO on national ID system challenged

From page A1

The safeguards include limiting the information to be contained in a person's data bank to name, home address, sex, photo, signature, date of birth, place of birth, marital status, names of parents, height, weight, fingerprints, distinguishing marks and tax identification number.

The safeguards are aimed at allaying fears the national ID system would intrude into the private lives of Filipinos.

"In no case shall the collection or compilation of the other data in violation of a person's right to privacy shall be allowed or tolerated under this order," the President said in the EO.

Confidential

Access to the national ID data bank will be restricted with all information classified as "strictly confidential" to be released or modified only with the consent of the individual.

The national ID will also be protected by advanced security features and encryption technology to prevent copying or hacking.

Although the national ID system is being touted as a tool to flush out terrorists, the President cited lower costs and public convenience as the main reasons for EO 420.

"A unified ID system will facilitate private business, enhance the integrity and reliability of government issued ID cards in private transactions, and prevent violations of laws involving false names and identities," the President said.

To ensure the statewide adoption and support for the national ID, Neda secretary general Romulo Neri will enter into an agreement with city mayors and government agencies such as the Commission on Elections.

Recycled

In separate statements, the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) and the Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya) said their lawyers were set to challenge the "recycled" EO.

KMP deputy secretary general Willy Marbella said Malacañang should release a copy of the signed order "and we will prove point by point that it is an infringement of one's right to privacy, that it is unconstitutional and that it poses a danger to our lives."

He said a national ID system would make it easier for the military and police to track down suspected enemies of the state, including activists belonging to Leftist organizations.

This year a total of 34 activists have already killed, according to the KMP.

Pamalakaya spokesperson Gerry Corpuz said the national ID system was a curtailment of civil liberties.

"(Its main) objective is to persecute and terrorize people under the guise of fighting terrorism," he said.

"We hope the high tribunal will not reverse its previous decision against the national ID system despite pressure and political bullying from Malacañang," Corpuz added.

Finalizing details

On Wednesday, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita and Justice Secretary Raul Gonzales said the President had signed an EO implementing a national ID system. But they did not release a copy of the order.

Gonzales said Malacañang was still finalizing its details.

In the House of Representatives, Anakpawis party-list Representatives Crispin Beltran and Rafael Mariano and Gabriela Rep. Liza Maza said the President effectively bypassed and disregarded Congress, where bills had been filed for a national ID system, and the Supreme Court.

"The President is exploiting her powers as the highest executive of the land and bypassing the powers of the legislative and judicial branches of government by passing an infamous EO that stands to further attack the already feeble front of human rights and civil rights in the country," Beltran said.

Mariano said he would file a resolution asking Congress to investigate the order, particularly its "basis, contents and legality."

5 proposed bills

The House committee on justice is discussing five proposed bills for the creation of a national ID system.

Maguindanao Rep. Simeon Datumanong, the committee chair and Ms Arroyo's former justice secretary, said the committee members would wait for Malacañang to reveal the contents of the executive order.

"What we can do in Congress is to consider it if we find that everything has been addressed by the order. She can do it (issue the Executive Order). She is the President," Datumanong said.

But Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo urged the President to withdraw her order, saying she "practically disregarded the sense" of the Supreme Court ruling against a national ID system.

Profiling

A group of nongovernment organizations questioned the rationale behind EO 420.

"With safeguards against state abuses rolled back, we can only fear what the repercussions would be for Filipino workers and social movements, as well as how this would play in the profiling and ensuing discrimination of our Muslim community," the Philippine Alliance for Human Rights Advocates, Focus on the Global South and 10 other groups said in a statement. *With reports from Norman Bordadora in Manila and Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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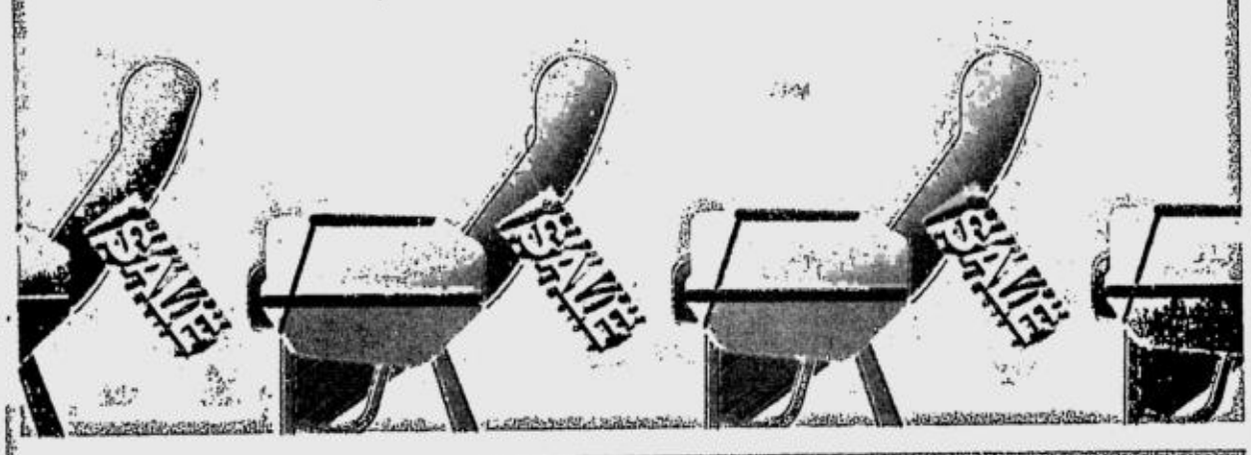

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14 kidnapped MSU studes . . .

From page A1

Sur, she said.

The jeepney was carrying at least 22 people. The abductors initially released seven of the passengers, and took 14—two men and 12 women—to Barangay Gakap in Piagapo, a police report said.

Among those released shortly after the abduction were the driver, an old man and two Muslim women, apparently because some of them had bruised their feet during an uphill hike and could not walk fast enough as the abductors tried to flee, military officials said.

In Piagapo, four more armed men wearing camouflage uniforms joined the group.

Pursuit

Dolorfino, chief of Task Force Ranao, said the military and the police immediately pursued the kidnappers and caught up with them on the outskirts of Piagapo and Munai towns at around 1:30 p.m.

Faced with a larger force (some 120 policemen and soldiers descended on Piagapo town), the bandit group retreated, leaving behind their victims, Dolorfino said.

One of the victims, a woman, was left behind by her abductors when she could no longer walk in Piagapo, Dolorfino said. Soldiers and policemen later found her, and brought her to safety.

As the kidnappers battled government forces, some soldiers and policemen rescued the 13 remaining victims.

Policeman killed

But when the smoke cleared, a police officer from the Lanao del Sur provincial mobile group was reported killed. The slain policeman was identified as PO1 Edris Sultan.

At around 3 p.m. Senior Supt. Sukarno Ikbala, chief of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, received a text message from one of his men.

"14 victims were recovered (in) Barangay Gacap, Piagapo but (a) policeman from Marawi City was killed in action," read the text.

Two kidnappers were also reported killed, according to Senior Supt. Amerodin Hamdag, chief of the Lanao del Sur police. But the police did not see the bodies.

Lanao del Sur Rep. Faysah Dumarpa said the freed victims included 11 females and two males.

Soldiers and policemen were still pursuing the bandits as of press time.

"The Marines suspected that the kidnappers belong to the same group that abducted the son of Jerry Tomawis," Dumarpa said.

Magaluyan kidnap group

Dolorfino said the abductors belonged to a bandit group called the "Magaluyan kidnap for ransom group."

"Magaluyan" is a native word for "round trip." The bandits are called thus because they operate on national highways, targeting commuters and motorists.

But others said they were not discounting the possibility that the suspects belonged to another group.

In recent years, disgruntled former employees of the state-owned university had engaged in kidnapping, victimizing teachers and students.

Grievances

They said the abductions were meant to press school authorities to address their grievances, including unpaid salaries and alleged illegal dismissals.

In September 2000, government operatives rescued an MSU professor and his driver from kidnappers in Barangay Maman-unan, Balo-i, Lanao del Norte. MSU College of Agriculture professor Francisco Escalante and Tomas Garsola were abandoned by their abductors following an hourlong firefight with government forces.

The two were abducted by six armed men while inspecting a corn sheller project in Barangay Cabingan, Marawi City, with four MSU students.

In November 2000, a joint Army and police team rescued Rodrigo Pontillas, dean of the MSU College of Forestry, after 25 days in captivity.

Pontillas was abducted by five armed men who had flagged down his jeep in Barangay Pindu-ilonan, Balo-i town, Lanao del Norte, while he was heading for the MSU campus in Marawi City.

Dismissed employees

The kidnappers, led by a certain Abu Ayob Gunting, brought Pontillas to several hideouts in Marawi City and outlying towns. Gunting, a dismissed employee of the MSU, demanded he be reinstated as a security guard of the state-run university in exchange for the release of Pontillas.

In February 2003, armed men dragged Prof. Rhede Nelson Manulat out of the College of Business Administration while he was supervising some 77 students who were practicing for a presentation.

Manulat's abduction occurred six hours after armed men took three MSU students who were on their way to Marawi City from Iligan City.

The female students were released the following day after Balindong Mayor Benjamin Bagul negotiated with the abductors. *With a report from Jeffrey Maningo, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

IBP won't fight court fee hikes

BAGUIO CITY—Convinced that the country's deficit crisis has overwhelmed the government, the Integrated Bar of the Philippines will no longer fight any reasonable increase in court fees that the Supreme Court may impose to sustain the judiciary, Jose Cadiz, IBP national president, said.

Cadiz said "government is so bankrupt" that diminution in court budgets could mean massive retrenchment of judges and court employees, and would result in a judicial crisis.

Justice Romeo Brawner, presiding justice of the Court of Appeals, said the reduced summer sessions of the CA reflects the impact of the deficit on the judiciary.

But if lawyers are willing to look the other way with regard to court fees, Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima wants them to give the same attention to the expanded value-added tax (VAT).

In a speech read before the IBP's 10th national convention here on Thursday, Purisima urged lawyers to swallow the bitter pill that is the expanded VAT.

Exemptions granted to both lawyers and medical doctors are going to be lifted under a new VAT law.

Appeal

"Let me make an appeal to the lawyers here right now. Alleviating poverty entails lawyers to be receptive to the VAT," Purisima said.

The IBP convention theme is "Alleviating Poverty and Resolving the Fiscal Crisis."

The deficit already hit P186.1 billion last year, despite gains in a 6.1 percent growth in the Gross Domestic Product and a sustained interest rate of 8 percent, Purisima said.

In another speech that was read for him Associate Justice Adolf Azcuna on Wednesday, Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. said that "lawyering should be retail."

He said the costs of inaccessible justice or delay to the poor are staggering and overwhelming, and lawyers must participate by "adding public service, a social conscience, and a national dimension to their private practice."

Cadiz said the IBP had originally objected to many judicial reforms that required extending new court fees or increase current taxes.

Republic Act 9227, which became law in 2003, doubled the salaries of judges but allowed the government to source this increase from court fees.

The IBP negotiated for compromise fees from the Supreme Court, according to Associate Justice Reynato Puno.

"But we had very compelling reasons to finally withdraw all our objections. The biggest is the effect it will have on the employees of the judiciary," Cadiz said.

IBP members claiming to represent the Quezon chapter criticized Cadiz for this shift in policy. But Loverna Chunky Santiago, IBP governor for Southern Luzon, said the critics have been misrepresenting the organization.

Republic of the Philippines

Department of Science and Technology
Science Education Institute

Qualifiers to the 2005 Science and Technology Scholarship announced

1,737 pass 2005 S&T Scholarship Exam

Secretary Estrella F. Alabastro of the Department of Science and Technology announced that a total of 1,737 high school graduates who took the S & T Scholarship Examination last 9 January 2005 have qualified for scholarship awards of the DOST-Science Education Institute (DOST-SEI). She said that this year's qualifiers were selected from among 18,606 examinees from various regions nationwide. There were 1,366 who qualified for RA 7687 Science and Technology Scholarships, while 371 will be awarded with the DOST-SEI Merit Scholarships. The scholars must enroll in 4 or 5-year baccalaureate degrees in priority science and technology fields.

Dr. Ester B. Ogena, SEI Director, said that the scholars will receive tuition fees, monthly stipends, book and transportation allowances. She added that the qualifiers will receive a notice of scholarship award from DOST-SEI or the DOST Regional Offices stating the date of orientation and contract signing. Each qualifier is required to report to the designated venue with a parent/guardian and to bring the following documents: accompanying parent/guardian's 2005 residence certificate, documentary stamp and notarization fee. A legal guardian is required to present his/her affidavit of guardianship.

Undergraduate scholarship programs in science and technology are administered and implemented yearly by the DOST-SEI as its contribution to developing a pool of human resources who will take active participation and leadership roles in carrying out S&T activities in the country. Currently, there are 9,333 beneficiaries of the RA 7687 Scholarship Program, while 789 are being supported under the Merit Scholarship Program.

The following are the qualifiers of the 2005 S&T Scholarships (also available online at www.sei.dost.gov.ph):

Continued from yesterday:

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ABAD, ROCKY RODGER CAAYA
ABAO, KRISTINE MAE YLAGAN
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ARIAS, CHRISTIAN CHARINA SANCHEZ
ARQUIO, GYPSY JENNSEN CANTOS
AUTENTICO, MICHELLE TANCIO
BUCOD, LOUIE GENE DARUNDAY
BULADACO, MARK VAN MERCA
CABARDO, KAREEN SHYNE CELO
CANCIO, LESLIE PEARL MANSILITA
CAPILI, ANTHONY FONTANARES
CINCO, SHIELA MAE LUTARTE
DOLDOLIA, JAMES ESTOMATA
DOMINGO, MARIVIC LANES
DOPING, PHETERSON TONZO
ESPARAGOZA, RONNEL TOLENTINO
GALINATO, AGNES UNDANGAN
JABINES, ESALLE JOY RECALDE
KINTANAR, ALKIN STEVE MATEO
LABAYAN, LUCHIE MARIE ALCOBER
LABIO, KRYSTLE MAE MATCHINO
LELIS, ABEGAIL GRACE VILLASURDA
MAGALLANES, JUST DACAY
MAUSISA, JADE KENNETH POSTRANO
MEDELLIN, CARLSBERG CASTAÑA
MEJELLANO, WALTER JAMES SESCON
MUCA, JUDE CARLO JALLA
NANG, KATHERINE LANOY
OLAIVAR, CHERRY VIC INOCELLAS
PADEN, PETER PAUL BARBADILLO
PLANOS, JULIUS RELLON
RANQUE, FLORYL JANE UGAY
REMOLLENO, CATHERINE BATONGHINOG
SAN GASPAR, KEVIN BERNARD ROJO
TADLA, JOSEPH DELA CRUZ
TAY, BRIAN LESTER QUEZON
TITO, CHRISTINE THESSA MAE DOLOERAS
VILLANUEVA, JELAILYN SUSON
VILLENA, JAYMAR SABLADA
VILLORA, LIZA MAE CABAYA
VIOLAN, APRIL ROSE LISONDRA
WABINGGA, JAY-R CONCON

DAVAO ORIENTAL
ANGON, CHEENEE MARIE MELITON

EASTERN SAMAR
CHUA, VON CHRISTOPHER GULPRIC
GARAPAN, JAYDEE ARCENO
OROSCO, INIGO II CAIGOY
QUITON, LESTER RAPADA

IFUGAO
GUMME, RYAN DACUAWAN
MIGANO, GILBERT BANGONA
WASIN, PEARL JOY VILLANUEVA

ILOCOS NORTE
BATARA, CRISTOPHER VIDAD
BENIGNO, REGGAE RAPADA
JULIAN, FLYNN ANN NACURAY
PASCUAL, KRYSELLE PASCUAL

ILOILO
AMOR, REX VINCENT CLEMENTE
BALANDRA, DANIELLE GAY ROBLES
BELANDRES, RALEO JR. DEOCADES
CABRIETO, RAQUEL DOSDOS
CHAVES, SHAHANI JOY IBERO
CONDINO, MARY JOY CANETE
CONEJAR, CONIE DEALA
DE LA PENA, ALVIE TABARES
DUMAYAS, JESSYENANE BURGOS
FAIWAS, JEREMY REMOLLINO
GAZO, APRIL JOY MARTIR
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MANIKAN, MERWIN DALISAY
MARASIGAN, AIVA JOBELLE SUNGCAYA
MONAKIL, CLARENCE JACOB JAURIGUE
MONAKIL, FRAZZER DOMINIC JAURIGUE
MORALES, BENNY LEA VIRGINIA TAMAYO
MORENO, MANILYN PURCA
MORTIFERO, BIJOHN CARLO GUILATCO
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DYCOCO, JED ESTRADA
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IBERO, JAYSON ONCOG
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KOBAYASHI, FUJIKO BELBAR
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DIOLA, DANIEL LUBIO

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TERANA, KIM JAY CUYOS
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TORCULAS, HIEDY LAORDEN

SARANGANI
ABDON, GWENDOLINE LECERA

SIQUIJOR
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SORSOGON
ANINIPOT, MARCK JOSEP ABAD
ARCOS, ARIANE PEÑA
AVENIDO, CHARISSE MARIE CLAVEJO
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BALMAS, ELDAREM
BONTIGAO, ARWIN DACOCO
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CHR impatient, orders PNP to produce Bicutan report

By Norman Bordadora

THE COMMISSION on Human Rights (CHR) issued yesterday a subpoena for the police's post-operations report on the Bicutan jail raid that resulted in the death of more than 20 detainees following a takeover by suspected Abu Sayyaf Group members last month.

Commissioner Wilhelm Soriano, CHR officer-in-charge, said they had yet to be furnished a report by the PNP more than a month after its Special Action Force made the assault on the ASG detainees after a botched escape try.

"We want to know whether or not excessive force was used (in the raid)," Soriano said in a forum at the CHR office in Quezon City.

Soriano said the CHR was verifying allegations of the Philippine Alliance of Human Rights Advocates that some of the ASG detainees were summarily executed by the police after the latter had retaken the facility.

"We still have to conduct further investigation... We don't want to give justice while causing injustice to others," Soriano said.

The CHR expressed concern over the police leadership's inability to immediately furnish the commission with its report on the Bicutan incident.

The commission has a constitutional mandate to investigate alleged human rights violations.

"If they don't comply (with our subpoena for their report), we may have to summon government officials to open hearing," said Commissioner Dominador Calamba II.

Sought for comment, PNP spokesperson Senior Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil said, "We will comply. We have no problem (with that)."

But National Capital Region Police Office chief Deputy Director General Avelino Razon said that as far as he knew, the PNP already submitted a copy of the report to the CHR.

Interior and Local Government Secretary Angelo Reyes said he welcomed the concerns raised by human rights groups.

Reyes added that such concerns should be investigated thoroughly by the CHR and the Department of Justice (DOJ).

This developed as the Department of Interior and Local Government probe team wrapped up its own investigation on the Bicutan siege.

The DILG report will be made public after the department studies the fact-finding panel's recommendations.

Local gov'ts celebrate Earth Day

By Tina G. Santos, Tarra V. Quismundo and DJ Yap

IGNORING opposition by environmentalists, Manila public school teachers and the city government will hold groundbreaking ceremonies today, Earth Day, for the Manila Division of City Schools (DCS) building in the disputed Arroceros Forest Park.

The DCS, which is asserting ownership of the 2.1-hectare property, is locked in a tug-of-war with Winner Foundation, the organization taking care of the park.

The forest park used to be a Department of Education compound in Manila.

Apart from the groundbreaking, the daylong event will be highlighted by the renaming of the park to "People's Botanical Garden."

Earth Day presentation

"We are [inviting] all Manilans, especially those opposing the construction of the building, to celebrate Earth Day with us. We have prepared [an] educational and enlightening program, which I'm sure even Winner Foundation will appreciate," said Ma. Luisa Quinones, DCS superintendent.

Also, city planner Deogracias Tablan will present a Power Point presentation on the building project which school officials hope would clarify issues being raised by critics.

DCS officials said they already informed the Laguna Lake Development Authority, which would decide whether or not the city could proceed with the project, that they were ready to proceed with the initial phase of the construction of its two-storey building.

The building will occupy not more than 10 percent of the forest park's total land area, the school officials said.

Mass for environment

A Mass will be celebrated by Fr. Larry Faraon followed by the blessing of the place.

As part of Earth Day festivities, Manila elementary and high school students will present extemporaneous speeches, singing contests and cultural performances.

Over in Makati City, the local government will be treating car owners to free emission testing today from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the Makati Central Fire Station office at the corner of Gil Puyat and Ayala Avenues.

The activity is part of the weeklong Earth Day celebration of the Makati Pollution Control Office.

All types of motor vehiles, whether private or public, from cars to truck, tricycles to jeepneys and buses may be brought for testing, which usually cost between P300 to P500 in car shops. It is open to all, even to those from outside Makati.

Antipollution drive

The Makati city government, which has received several commendations for leading a vigorous campaign against smoke-belching, has apprehended 2,559 smoke-belchers since the start of the year.

Apart from battling air pollution, the city has been pursuing a program on solid waste management.

Tomorrow, residents will be given a chance to make money from their garbage as nine recycling companies will offer to buy their recyclable waste.

The companies will accept used paper, including cardboard boxes, newspapers and magazines; electronic office equipment, car batteries, empty printer cartridges, plastic bottles, aluminum cans and styrofoam food packaging.

Quezon City, in the meantime, will party in honor of Mother Earth.

Starting noon today, the stretch of Tomas Morato Avenue from Scout Delgado to Scout De Guia will be closed to motorists to prepare the venue for Earth Day Jam 2005, a yearly musical event featuring different bands and artists.

Alternative routes

Motorists may use Scout Tuazon and Torillo as alternative routes.

From 7:30 p.m. onwards, Scout Lascano Street to Gandia Street will be packed with party animals and environment advocates for the musical jam.

Performers who are expected to grace the six-hour event include Kitchie Nadal, Parokya ni Edgar, Makiling Ensemble, Sugar Free, True Faith, Chin Chin Gutierrez, KC Montero, Grace Nono and Sponge Cola.

An on-the-spot graffiti painting with the Young Visual Artists Group and other activities with environment themes will also be held, organizers said. Restaurants and bars in the area will move out their tables and chairs on the street to help create a laid-back ambience, they added.

Booths by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources will also be set up around the place.

With the aim of stopping environmental destruction, Valenzuela City will deputize a special police force to safeguard the environment.

The environmental police will help promote a disciplined disposal and collection of garbage among residents, said Mayor Sherwin Gatchalian.

"These new cops will roam city streets of the city to reprimand violators and issue citation tickets," explained Gatchalian. *With Nancy C. Carvajal and Kristine Jade Tinio*

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Firemen find 6th victim

THE BODY of another victim who died in a 12-hour fire that destroyed a building in Binondo, Manila, early Wednesday morning was recovered by the Manila Fire Department.

Tessie Kho Chua, 52, the mother of Edralin, 28; Elizalde, 25, and Erika, 16, who earlier perished in the fire, was retrieved around 9 p.m., about seven hours after the fire was placed under control by responding firemen.

The bodies of the Chua siblings, and that of a female that was charred beyond recognition, were retrieved earlier.

A doctor at the Philippine General Hospital said the condition of another helper Luisita Seryales, who sustained third degree burns, had improved.

Still missing

The children's father Ely, and two other members of the Chua household, were still missing, but arson investigators were not yet ready to assume that they had not survived the fire.

Fire officials said they are still determining the cause of the fire and the estimated cost of damages.

The four-story building, located at No. 589 Quintin Paredes St., caught fire around 2:37 a.m. on Wednesday.

High risk

According to FO1 Lords Hernandez, the fire took several hours to control because the building contained highly combustible materials.

The Chua family was reportedly engaged in the plastic toy business. The fire exits of the building were also blocked with the merchandise.

Efforts of firefighters to rescue the trapped tenants were also hampered by the building's grilled windows that made it difficult for them to enter the burning structure. *Jean Marionne Bermudez, trainee*

Provincial buses seek fare hike

By Clarissa S. Batino

METRO Manila residents may have to reduce their trips to the provinces.

Provincial bus drivers and operators have asked the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board(LFTRB) for a P2 increase in the minimum fare, plus 20 centavos for each additional kilometer.

Alex Yague, president of the Provincial Bus Operators Association of the Philippines said his group had asked the LTFRB to grant their petition to increase the fare for the first 5 kilometers to P8 from the current P6, and the per kilometer fare to P1.30 from P1.10.

"We just need to recover our costs because of the increasing price of diesel which now costs P27.60," he said.

Yague said the increase would result in an 18 percent jump in provincial bus fares against the escalating cost of diesel.

The last time bus fares went up was in June 2004 when the LTFRB granted the petition of ordinary Metro and provincial buses to increase the fare for the first 5 kilometers from P4 to P6.

The additional distance for Metro buses went up by 38 centavos from 87 centavos; for provincial routes, it increased by 20 centavos from 90 centavos in June last year.

Ordinary Metro buses have asked the LTFRB as early as April 1 for an increase in the first 5-kilometer fare to P9, and an additional 60 centavos for each succeeding kilometer.

The same day, jeepney groups also submitted their petition for a P2.50 increase in the fare for the first 4 kilometers, and a 25-centavo additional fare per kilometer.

LTFRB Chair Maria Elena Bautista said the board heard the petition of jeepneys and Metro ordinary buses yesterday. She said the agency received three objections to the fare hike, two from commuters, and one from the Office of the Solicitor General representing the public. No other public transport group had filed a petition for an increase.

The transportation department had instructed the LTFRB to process the granting of the fare hike petition on or before the first week of May.

Vigor Mendoza, lawyer for the transport groups, said the jeepney associations would submit their position paper to the LTFRB on Monday. The Metro bus operators would file theirs on Tuesday.

If the process goes smoothly, he said the fare increase could take effect by the third week of May.

The swift processing of the fare hike application was promised by the government to major jeepney groups that staged a strike last Monday.

The strike reportedly paralyzed 90 percent of the public transport.

Transport Secretary Leandro Mendoza promised transport groups that the government would think of other measures to address their problems, adding that fuel prices are beyond the government's control.

In turn, he urged transport groups to improve their services to encourage people, including those who own cars, to take the bus or jeepney..

"It is about time that the public transport sector lifts the quality of service to the public to help increase ridership," said the transport chief. "The government will try to help them, but they must also improve their service."

NBI catch: Fake jeans, US T-bills

By Margaux C. Ortiz and Jean Marinonne Bermudez, trainee

INTENSIFYING its campaign against counterfeiters, the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) recently seized P11 million worth of fake jeans and T-shirts with the trademark Lee during a series of raids in the cities of Navotas and Manila.

The agency's Intellectual Property Rights Division headed by lawyer Jose Yap raided five establishments from March until the first quarter of April, according to the NBI.

Around 16,180 fake Lee T-shirts and high speed sewing machines were confiscated by NBI agents from Multi Fashion Manufacturing Corp. located at No. 207 Encarnacion St., San Rafael Village, Navotas, on March 3.

V.O. Garments located at No. 204 Encarnacion street, San Rafael Village and its branch at No. 81 North Bay Boulevard, Navotas were also raided on April 7.

NBI operatives seized 3, 398 pieces of blouses and shirts bearing fake Lee trademarks, as well as high speed sewing machines from the establishment.

In Binondo, the agents searched Mmastar Collection located at the 10th floor, Juan Luna Plaza, Juan Luna Street, confiscating 1,506 pairs of jeans, paper hang tags, leather patches and documents regarding the sale and distribution of counterfeit Lee products.

On April 19, the NBI seized 4,120 pairs of shorts and jeans with fake Lee trademarks from Anbie's General Merchandise located at the same building in Binondo.

Charges of unfair competition and trademark infringement under the Intellectual Property Code or Republic Act 8293 are now being readied against the owners of these establishments.

Meanwhile, two Britons attempted to transport trillions of dollars in fake US treasury notes to Switzerland through an international courier company last week.

But NBI agents arrested Paul Edward John Flavell and Sam Beany, residing at Room 305, CEO Apartments, Jupiter St., Makati City before they could ship the fake federal bank reserves out of the country.

According to NBI Anti-Graft Division Head Agent Manuel Eduarte, the bureau received a call from DHL Phil. last April 14 about the suspects' pending shipment.

Eduarte said the suspects had gone to the DHL office on Chino Roces Avenue to send out an iron-cast chest to a certain Mr. Rotondo and Mr. Z.M. Bayram in Zurich, Switzerland.

The chest, with the words "Treaty of Versailles" emblazoned on its lid, contained a metal scroll and 13 iron-cast boxes with bogus reserve certificates from Chicago, Illinois. Each box contained 250 fake certificates allegedly issued in 1934 worth $1 billion each, Eduarte said.

"The US government issues only up to $10,000 in reserves," Eduarte stressed, adding that the suspects sold the bonds to unsuspecting buyers for a lower price.

After the suspects paid the shipment bill, NBI agents who had been monitoring their activities, asked them to open the chest. The operatives arrested the Britons after they had confirmed from a US Embassy official that the notes were fake.

Charges of treasury or bank notes forgery, and illegal possession and use of treasury and bank notes were filed against the suspects in the Makati City Prosecutor's Office.

8 street food stalls dismantled in QC

By DJ Yap

EIGHT sidewalk eateries peddling ready meals on East Avenue were dismantled last week in Quezon City, as the city intensified its crackdown on unhygienic stalls selling street food.

The eateries, which used to occupy the sidewalk outside the Philippine Heart Center, had been asked to vacate the site eight months ago, but the stall owners refused to budge, according to the city's department of public order and safety.

The Heart Center management and staff had been complaining about the continued operation of the eateries, the department said in a statement.

Last week, the DPOS, led by its chief Manuel Buncio, demolished the eatery stalls for violating the Sanitation Code or Presidential Decree 856, in a joint operation with the city's task force on the control, prevention and removal of all illegal structures.

Buncio said the stall owners had violated "nearly all" the provisions of Section 3 of the Sanitation Code, which sets the requirements for food establishments.

The Code requires food establishments and food handlers to get a sanitary permit and a health certificate from the city health officer.

It also contains provisions for the transport of food materials, construction of walls and floors of a food outlet, ventilation and water supply.

The stall owners, who belong to the Matalino/Malakas Vendors Association, were also charged with violations of City Ordinance 5063, which prohibits the use of public roads, streets and sidewalks for peddling food and other items.

On April 1, the DPOS also demolished at least seven eateries around the City Hall compound, said Buncio.

These food stalls were "well entrenched" in the area, and had been around for nine to 10 years, he added.

In February, the department also tore down sidewalk eateries along the stretch of Commonwealth Avenue.

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Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres

Welcoat trims Bacchus; Granny Goose prevails

JAM ALFAD of Granny Goose Kornets keeps possession against two Negros Navigation-San Beda players in yesterday's game at the San Beda Gym. RYAN LIM

By Marc Anthony Reyes

CHRISTIAN Guevarra came off the bench to lead the second stringers in boosting Welcoat Paints to an 89-79 win over Bacchus Energy Drink in the 2005 PBL Unity Cup yesterday at the San Beda Gym.

With the frontliners given ample rest on the bench, coach Caloy Garcia found a surprise package in Guevarra, who shot a team high 16 points to lift the Paint Masters to their fourth win in five games.

It was a big comeback for Welcoat, which fell to Montaña Pawnshop last Tuesday, 88-86, and is hoping to nail one of the two outright semifinal berths.

In the second game, Granny Goose Kornets got a lot of help from RJ Quiñahan in posting a 69-57 win over Negros Navigation-San Beda to end a three-game skid.

The 6-foot-6 Quiñahan, who wasn't a factor in his team's last three games, presided over a second-quarter binge that saw the Kornets take a 36-32 lead at halftime.

Granny Goose improved to 2-3, while pinning a fifth straight loss for the Lions, who drew only six points from the sweet-shooting Noy Javier.

"Coming from a hard game, I decided to give my second stringers the chance and I was glad they responded well, especially Guevarra," said Garcia. "I just hope they will do the same in our future games."

The Energy Kings took a fourth defeat in five games.

Though hardly called to action, Fil-Am Anthony Washington still managed 15 points on top of 11 rebounds and an assist. Guevarra added three boards, one assist and one steal.

Romar Menor led the Energy Kings with 19 points, his biggest output so far in the tournament, while Nani Epondulan and Jemal Vizcarra combined for 23 points.

GAMES TOMORROW
(Makati Coliseum)

2 p.m.—Toyota Otis-Letran vs Montaña Pawnshop
4 p.m.—Magnolia Ice Cream vs Harbour Centre

The scores:

First Game

WELCOAT 89—Guevarra 16, Washington 15, Orbeta 15, Reyes 8, Sta. Maria 7, Coching 5, Dy 5, Sagad 4, Junio 4, Ortiguerra 3, Manding 3, Najorda 2, Gamboa 2, Estrada 0.

BACCHUS 79—Menor 19, Epondulan 13, Vizcarra 10, Holper 9, Cordero 8, Uy 7, Te 6, Hubalde 3, Coyukang 2, Nallon 2, Abadia 0, Butel 0.

Quarters: 25-19, 46-39, 63-54, 89-79

Second Game

GRANNY GOOSE 69—Quiñahan 15, Ferrer 11, Ibañez 10, David 8, Grijaldo 8, Almeda 6, Latonio 5, Cruz 3, Mercado 2, Alfad 1, Lanete 0, Santos 0, Saladaga 0, Guerrero 0.

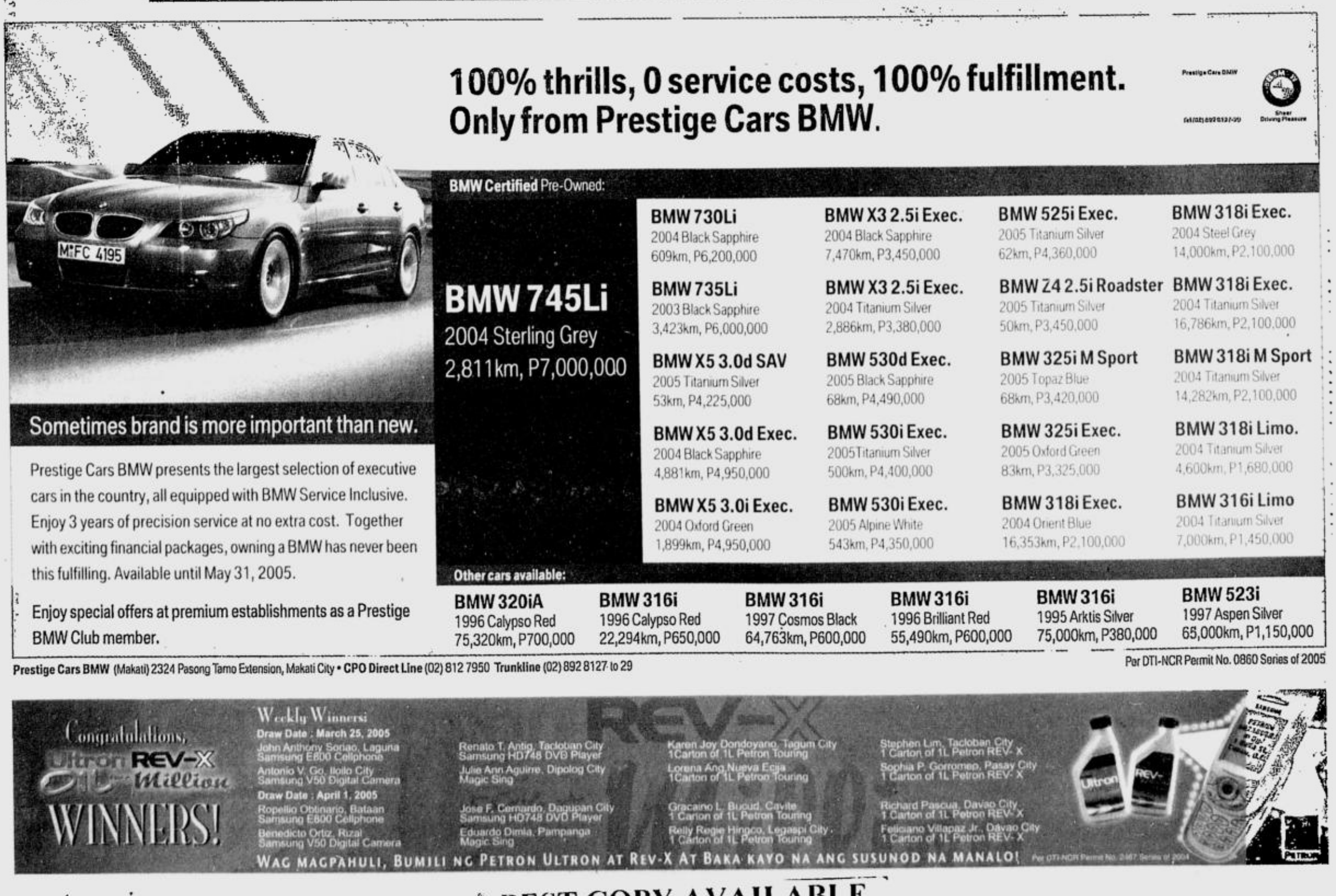
NEGROS NAVIGATION 57—Angeles 12, Paterno 11, Fasano 7, Cruz 7, Javier 6, Aljamal 5, Razon 4, Arbole 2, Yousif 2, Hudencial 1, Soriano 0, Baldivia 0, Timonera 0.

Quarters: 16-21, 36-32, 54-48, 69-57

BAP's Lim wants PBA out of 2 international tournaments /A26

Aquino doubtful starter vs Kings /A26

Pacman clams up on Nazario /A27



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Canadian Nationals willing to test RP five

PDI PHOTO

REYES can't wait to play.

By June Navarro

IF THE Italians and the Iranians don't excite you, perhaps the Canadians will.

The Canadian national team has agreed to play the Philippine team aspirants made up of Philippine Basketball Association stars in a two-game goodwill series on May 9-10.

Commissioner Noli Eala said he was assured by Canada head coach Leo Rautins that the visitors will provide the RP team hopefuls under coach Chot Reyes a tough test.

"He (Rautins) promised to assemble a team stronger than the Canadian team that beat China in a four-nation meet last year," said Eala.

There's a hitch, though. The PBA has no budget for the event.

"Nothing's final yet until we get a sponsor for the tournament," Eala explained.

The Sydney Kings, reigning champions of the Australian Basketball League, have also expressed willingness to face the RP training team, but Eala has to temporarily turn down the offer due to budget constraints.

The 20 players in the national pool, who were divided into two squads, are set to play in a pocket tournament against an Italian club and Iran's national team starting this Sunday at the Araneta Coliseum.

Nash's mold

Rautins, the first Canadian to be selected in the NBA draft in 1983, pledged to bring in quality players in the mold of Steve Nash, an NBA superstar guard now playing for the Phoenix Suns.

Reyes admits he knows little about the teams from Italy and Iran that the RP five aspirants will face in the pocket tournament.

"We don't know a lot (about the opposition) and we consciously don't want to know too much about them because one of the things we want to look at is our ability to come in a game and adapt and adjust to the opposition, because there will be some games in international competitions where the team will be forced to really adjust," said Reyes in a press conference Wednesday night.

"There's very little that we know of the opposition, except that Italy is sending a young team and Iran has confirmed the presence of five national players. So they're going to be tough," added the 42-year-old Reyes.

Coached by Andrea Annese, the Italians arrived yesterday while Iran, a rising power in Asian basketball, is set to arrive tomorrow.

The April 24-26 meet is the first exposure the 21-man RP training pool will be undergoing in their preparations for three major international tournaments this year. Both teams will carry the color of San Mig Coffee.

Players anxious

"We can't wait to play," Reyes said. "We've been practicing for the last two months. The players are anxious, so hopefully we can give the public a good series this weekend."

Making up Team A of the training pool are Mike Cortez, Willy Miller, Dondon Hontiveros, Renren Ritualo, Danny Seigle, Fil-Am rookie Kelly Williams, Kerby Raymundo, Rommel Adducul, Yancy de Ocampo and Sonny Thoss.

Eric Menk banners Team B of the RP pool together with Jimmy Alapag, Mark Caguioa, James Yap, Brandon Cablay, Tony dela Cruz, amateur standout Anthony Washington, Nic Belasco, Rafi Reavis and Enrico Villanueva.

"We have two relatively equal teams. We want to make sure the true strength of the team is tested and find out where we are in terms of preparation and training," said Reyes of the two, 10-man RP squads.

Italy and Iran will play in the same group while the two RP teams make up the other bracket. The top team of Group A and B will clash in a championship game on April 26.

General admission and upper B sections of the Big Dome is free to the public on Sunday.

A member of Canada's Basketball Hall of Fame, the 6-foot-8 Rautins had brief stints with the Philadelphia Sixers, Indiana Pacers and Atlanta Hawks in the NBA and represented his country in the 1978 World Basketball Championships in Manila.

Tugade waxes hot as Barako nip Phone Pals

By June Navarro

CALAPE, Bohol—Lordy Tugade waxed hot in the final period and Dalron Johnson erupted for 40 points as Red Bull repulsed Talk 'N Text, 104-102, last night in the Gran Matador PBA Fiesta Conference at the packed Calape Sports Center here.

Tugade drilled in 15 of his 21 points during the decisive quarter that allowed the Barako to complete a laborious comeback from 18 points down and notch their fifth win in nine games.

The victory snapped the Barako's two-game slide and pulled them into a tie with the Alaska Aces, Barangay Ginebra Kings, the Shell Turbochargers and the Phone Pals at 5-4, two full games behind solo leader San Miguel Beer (7-3).

Johnson also had 23 rebounds on top of four blocks and two assists to get the better of Talk 'N Text import Jerald Honeycutt.

Honeycutt wound up with 30 points and 17 boards and Jimmy Alapag contributed 17 points and 10 assists for the Phone Pals.

STANDINGS	W	L
San Miguel Beer	7	3
Talk 'N Text	5	4
Alaska	5	4
Ginebra	5	4
Shell	5	4
Red Bull	5	4
FedEx	4	5
Purefoods	4	6
Coca-Cola	3	6
Sta. Lucia	3	6

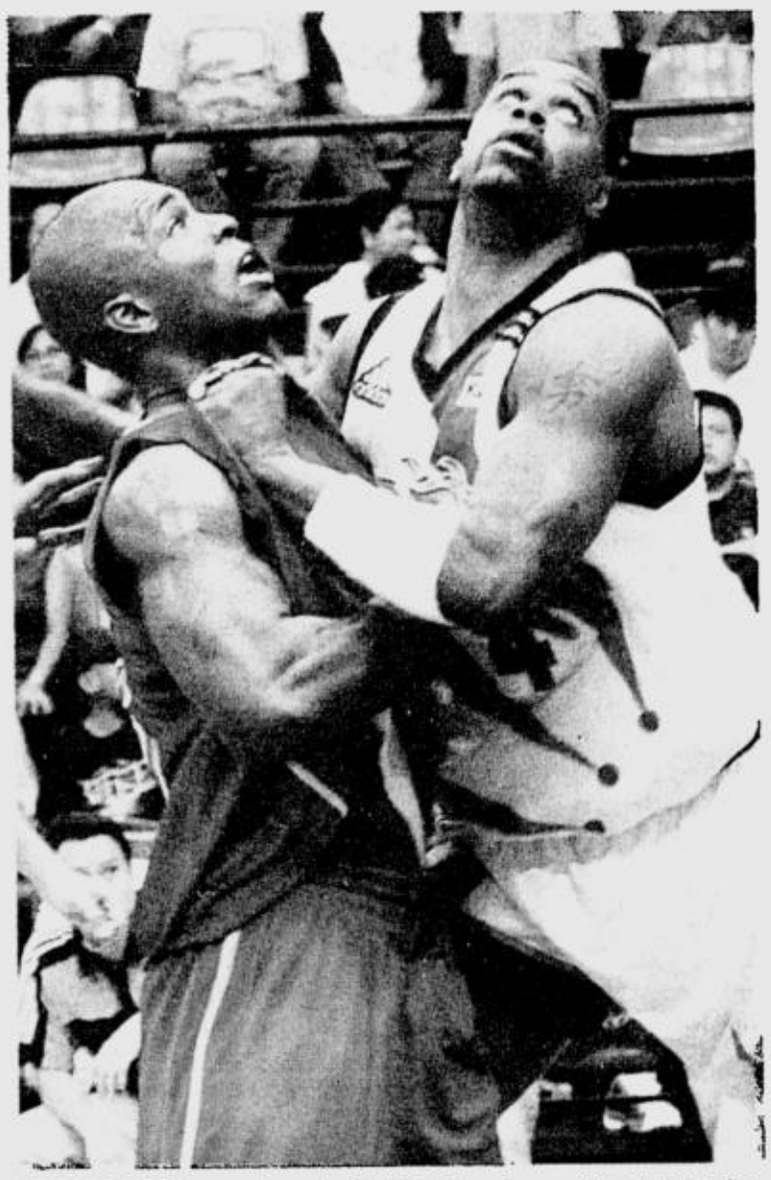
GAMES TODAY
(*Ynares Center*)
4:45 p.m.—Sta. Lucia vs Barangay Ginebra
7:35 p.m.—Alaska vs Shell

A Honeycutt triple capped the second of two explosive Talk 'N Text scoring runs as the Phone Pals sped off to a 48-30 lead.

Johnson had five straight points at the close of the third and Tugade scored on a layup off a steal to give the Barako their first taste of the lead, 78-77.

Meanwhile, an injured left hand may force Marlou Aquino to snap his 221-game perfect playing record for Sta. Lucia when the Realtors collide with the Ginebra Kings today.

The 6-foot-9 pivotman fractured his hand during a game against Shell in Capiz last week.



PUREFOODS import Antonio Smith jockeys for position with Dorian Peña of San Miguel Beer during their game Wednesday. The Beermen escaped with a 71-70 decision. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Lim wants PBA out of 2 SEA tilts

By Musong R. Castillo

THE BASKETBALL Association of the Philippines welcomes the major basketball league's offer to help the country's quest for cage gold in the Manila Southeast Asian Games.

"Everybody is welcome to help, be it the PBL, the UAAP or the NCAA," said BAP secretary general Graham Lim. "The BAP has nothing against them and I'm sure *gusto lang nilang makatulong* (they just want to be of help)."

Lim did not mention the professional PBA in the same breath as the amateur leagues, saying the program that the BAP had embarked on, which is being funded by Cebuana-Lhuillier, can go to waste if the pros are tapped for all international competitions.

"*Sayang ang pinagpaguran kung puro pros ang pupunta* (our preparations will all go to naught if pros will be sent)," Lim said.

"*Gusto rin namin i*-nurture *ang* (we also want to nurture our) relationship with the PBA, *may* MOA *din kami sa kanila* (we have an MOA with them) that has been in effect for the last six months."

The PBA had volunteered, like the PBL, the UAAP and the NCAA, to help in pooling the best possible squads for the Seaba and the SEAG following the outcry over the loss of the BAP-organized national team to a squad composed of, among others, movie stars and ex-pros.

Villegas High leans on ace pitcher for 4th MYG baseball title

JOSE Abad Santos High kept the overall lead but Villegas High stole the thunder yesterday with a rousing victory in baseball in the 4th Manila Youth Games at the Rizal Memorial ballpark.

Ace pitcher Erwin Bagalay powered Villegas to an abbreviated 16-2 win over Laurel High, securing a fourth straight baseball crown and the first gold for the school in the competition among the city's youth.

Bagalay, a 15-year-old high school senior, pitched a no-hitter in the game. He also had six RBIs, including a two-run home run in the second inning.

"I'm very proud of the boys, especially Erwin," said coach Danny Llabe.

JASHS lorded it over the rest in the medal race with 16 gold medals, five silvers and five bronzes, while Barrio Obrero Elementary was second with a 12-4-7 medal count. A.C. Herrera Elementary (8-12-10), Tondo High (8-7-3) and KaMaynila (6-5-1) rounded out the top five in the medal race.

District 4 bagged five gold medals disputed at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center through Deo Talatoyod, Rommel Opeliano, Macy Gonzalez, Zhane Quitara and Julie Base.

Talatoyod beat Jesserell Parena in the 10-under class (8-1), Opeliano downed Rogelio Reynoso (8-4) in the 17-under, Gonzalez thrashed Samantha Dairo (8-1) in the girls' 12-under, Quitara whipped Laurice Francis (8-0) in the 15-under, and Base rapped Angelica Madamba (8-4) in the 17-under.

Marc Anthony Reyes

Rebuilding shattered image

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

THE DEBATE is now between PBA chair Buddy Encarnado and PBA commissioner Noli Eala.

Will PBA players suit up for the Seaba or not?

Encarnado said no.

Eala said yes.

Each side has a point.

Said Encarnado, as quoted by the papers: "By sending PBA players (to the Seaba), you are killing the hopes, dreams and aspirations of many young amateur players who have been hoping to represent the country in international competitions."

Countered Eala: "Personally, I'm very much for it (the sending of PBA players to the Seaba)."

Peping Cojuangco, the president of the Philippine Olympic Committee who now chairs the basketball committee tasked to initiate major reforms in the amateur basketball backyard, has told Eala to consider sending PBA players to the Seaba.

I can understand Peping. Like a true-blue Cojuangco, Peping always wants no less than the crown in any tournament that he is involved in. No wonder his daughter, Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski, won an equestrian gold in the 2002 Busan Asian Games. That was a feat almost nobody believed could be achieved.

While it may be true, as some say, that the Seaba is the lowest international basketball competition in Asia, the tournament deserves a second look.

Set in June in Singapore, the Seaba is a qualifier for the ABC Championship in Doha, Qatar, in September. If only for that, the Seaba is already a big deal.

For one, the top two teams in the Seaba will advance to the ABC. For another, the ABC champion—plus hopefully the second placer—will qualify for the World Championship in Saitama City, Japan, in August 2006 (almost just three months away from the Asian Games).

Many say that the World Championship is almost equal in prestige to the Olympic basketball gold.

So, if we top the Seaba, which is almost a sure thing if we send PBA players, we go next to the ABC. With some luck, our PBA-aided RP Team may yet perform the impossible, if not a miracle, and win the ABC crown—giving us a rare ticket to the World Championship. The last time we were there was in 1974. Because we hosted it in 1978, we were given a free slot.

While Encarnado's point is noble in that we must always put value to the aspirations of our youth, that position, however, becomes weak at this stage in the wake of what happened to the present RP Team preparing both for the Seaba and SEA Games.

That youth-laden team is just that: All youth, not much spunk. Ripe for beating not only on home ground but also overseas.

You want that team retained, you have no love for your country.

Peping is totally justified to express apprehension over that team's capacity to win against foreign foes following that disastrous and, therefore, atrocious showing of the squad in which it lost to a crew that does not even have a single player of national caliber status during a regular game of the NBC Championship.

Thus, this is not the time to invoke "aspirations" or the like.

Instead, this is the time, amid the call to rebuild a shattered image abroad and wounded pride on home turf, to invoke self-respect and the best way to do it is ensure victory—at all costs if need be—in any tournament, whether or not the opposition is weak.

The times call for it.

Over the years, the PBA governors have seen the wisdom of throwing support behind every move, aspiration, to make the country, if not the regional or Asian basketball champion, a power to reckon with overseas at all times.

To paraphrase that poster in the movie "Million Dollar Baby": "Winners love to do the things that losers hate."

Let's be sure winners then. Send our PBA players to the Seaba. And make concrete the aspiration of a nation long hungry for recognition in its favorite pastime.

* * *

FASTBREAK. I raise a glass to Dr. Geronimo V. Manahan, president of the Planning Resources and Operations Systems Inc. (PROS), for having received the highest award given a member of the United Architects of the Philippines during the UAP's recent 31st National Convention. Manahan was the dean of the UP College of Architecture from 1984-1990.

CHAMPS AGAIN

Members of the International Little League Association of Manila (ILLAM) under-19 girls squad celebrate their victory in the Southeast Asian Youth Baseball and Softball Tournament (SEABYST) in Singapore recently. The team, which HSBC sponsored as part of the bank's youth development program, beat Australia and Singapore to clinch the top award for the second year in a row.

adidas Streetball Challenge resumes in Naga City today

AFTER a big opener last week at SM Megamall, the adidas Streetball Challenge resumes today in Naga City for the pocket tournament featuring the seniors' and girls' divisions at the Ateneo de Naga.

Games will start at 8:30 a.m. with 48 teams vying for top honors in the one-day event which offers slots in the National Finals in July and berths in the adidas Asian Streetball Finals in September in Manila.

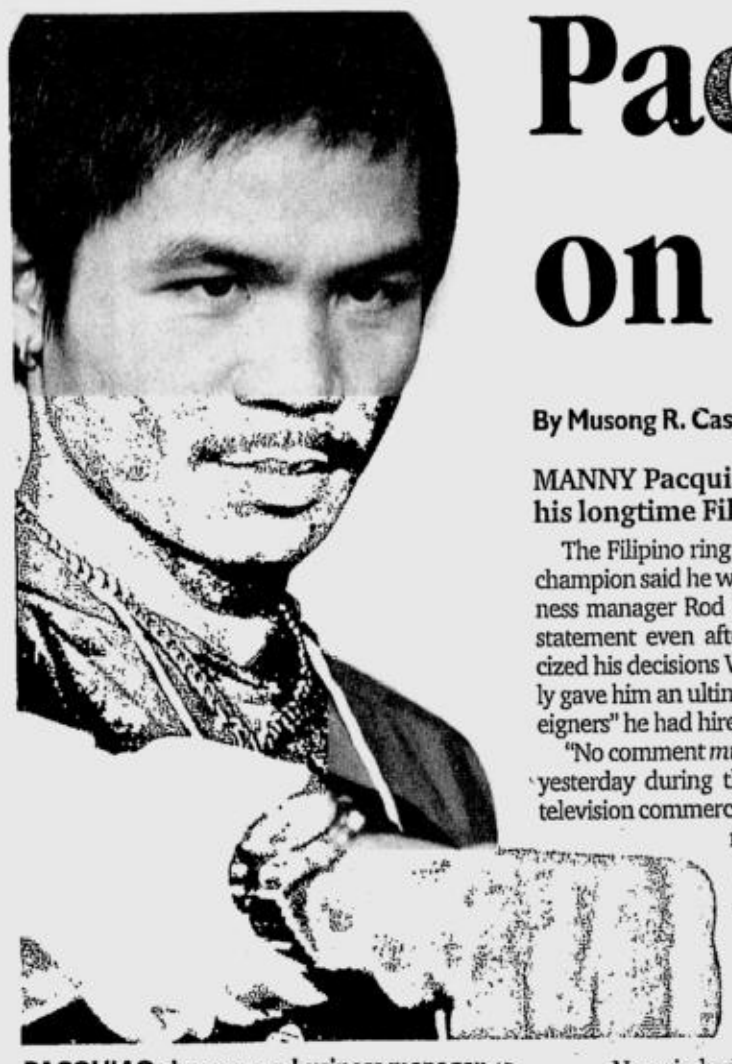
Team Beta of San Beda and Team Galaxy of UP Diliman led the winners in the National Capital Region eliminations last week, which kicked off a four-month-long, country-wide competition in the extreme half-court game of street basketball.

Co-presented by Globe Gentxt, the 10th adidas Streetball Challenge 2005 is backed by McDonald's, Cherifer Multivitamins, Snickers chocolate bar, Coppertone, adidas fragrance and body care, Blue Angel alcohol, Milo, Powerade, Viva Mineral Water, adidas eyewear and Yehey.com.

Team Beta nipped Team Backlash, 22-21, to top the seniors' category while Team Galaxy outsteadied Team Gallor of UST, 11-9, to bag the title in the girls division.

The other nine regional qualifiers: Pampanga (April 30, Univ. of Assumption), Lipa (May 5, La Salle-Lipa), Baguio (May 13-15, St. Louis Univ.), Iloilo (May 20, Univ. of San Agustin), Bacolod (June 4, Univ. of St. La Salle), Cebu (June 17-19, SM Cebu), Cagayan de Oro (June 24, Pelaez gym), Zamboanga (July 2, AdZU) and Davao (July 12-14, NCCC).

Pacquiao not keen on dumping Nazario



PACQUIAO clams up on business manager. AP

NAZARIO: He wants Roach out.

By Musong R. Castillo

MANNY Pacquiao wants to save his disintegrating partnership with his longtime Filipino business manager after all.

The Filipino ring idol and former world champion said he will not antagonize business manager Rod Nazario further with a statement even after the latter had criticized his decisions Wednesday and virtually gave him an ultimatum to ditch the "foreigners" he had hired to plot his career.

"No comment *muna ako*," said Pacquiao yesterday during the official launch of a television commercial where he endorses a new product. "*Baka magkamali na naman ako* (I might end up saying the wrong things again).

"*Pero mag-uusap kami* (But we will surely talk)."

Nazario had said he would opt out of Pacquiao's team if the slugger from General Santos City insists on working with a new group that includes noted American trainer Freddie Roach.

Shelley Finkel acted as Pacquiao's new manager in his last fight, a unanimous decision loss to Mexican legend Erik Morales in Las Vegas, where the trouble between the fighter and Nazario started to brew.

Nazario, one of those responsible for the Filipino's rise to prominence in the US, said that "Pacquiao's mind was poisoned by the new group," and that affected the fighter he has guided for close to 11 years.

The new group, Nazario said, "distracted" Pacquiao a few days before his fight with Morales by informing him of supposed back taxes to the United States government for his previous six fights.

This group had supposedly told Pacquiao that he would not be able to claim his $1.75-million purse for fighting Morales if he fails to settle his obligations with the US Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

Nazario, who stayed behind in the US after the Morales fight, said that those taxes, amounting to about $190,000, had been settled. He showed mediamen on Wednesday during a press conference photocopies of receipts and checks that represented tax payment.

Ironically, it was Nazario who picked Roach to train Pacquiao for his US debut, a title-winning performance against Lehlo Ledwaba for the IBF junior featherweight crown in Las Vegas four years ago where Pacquiao earned $40,000.

Pacquiao, who was presented by Surf as its new endorser, flew in from a short trip from the US and admitted having talked to Nazario in San Francisco.

"*Galing ako doon at nag-usap na kami* (I've talked to him)," Pacquiao said.

"*Pero ayaw pa akong pagsalitain ng mga abugado ko* (But my lawyers don't want me to talk about it)."

Look who's grabbing the credit now

BARE EYE
Recah Trinidad

IF PEPING Cojuangco had, say, offered a shallow solution to the wormy mess in the formation of the national amateur basketball team, there would be no clawing claims on who did it first.

But because the president of the Philippine Olympic Committee wielded a spear, mounted his war stallion to go hard after the enemy, there's this frantic race to give credit where it's not due.

For example, who could beat this young, wide-eyed scribe that wasted no time to single out his generous patron as the guy who organized the summit of major basketball stakeholders that led to the formation of a powerhouse cage body?

No, Cojuangco was not claiming he did it alone.

But it was a masterstroke how he effectively benched Graham Lim, the poorly performing secretary general of the Basketball Association of the Philippines.

Lim's name will continue to appear in the lineup but, needless to say, his playing time has been reduced to nil.

* * *

What if Cojuangco had offered a mere band-aid solution?

Uncertainty would have reigned if the POC chief did not decide to put a stop to the rotten system at the BAP.

To repeat, the Parañaque team that Anjo Yllana built around Richard Gomez and Antonio Aquitania should get special mention for exposing the sad state of affairs in the national amateur squad.

Unfortunately, Yllana, Gomez & Co. may never get due recognition.

You know why?

Yesterday, we received a protesting text message which stated that this controversial guy, so glowingly portrayed by the young, wide-eyed scribe, should've been given better play-up in the story on the formation of the powerhouse basketball body.

"*Mali*, it's wrong *pare*, why should Noli Eala be the lead story?" asked the text message.

* * *

Cojuangco must've been smiling amusedly.

Clearly discernible were the cheap efforts of a stable of paid hacks, the same group that tried to project the discredited BAP sec-gen as a basketball savior despite all his failures and wrongdoings.

In fact, another small but not-so-young scribe was also trying to paint a heroic picture of the discredited BAP sec-gen, whose powers had been effectively clipped following the summit of local basketball power brokers.

Well, it's to each his own patrons, appetite and upbringing.

So far, it's been an uphill fight for a group of select sports scribes and editors who had vowed to wage a determined war against evil in RP sports.

For the record, this intrepid group is not out to grab credit for the happy turn of events in the national amateur basketball backyard.

At least, with the shake-up Cojuangco has effected in the RP basketball turf, there's no fear now of the amateur affairs being run like a private carnival by its officials.

Said one lady texter, who had been praying hard for a shake-up at the BAP: "At least, we can now be sure that the PCCr squad won't be made into a national team."

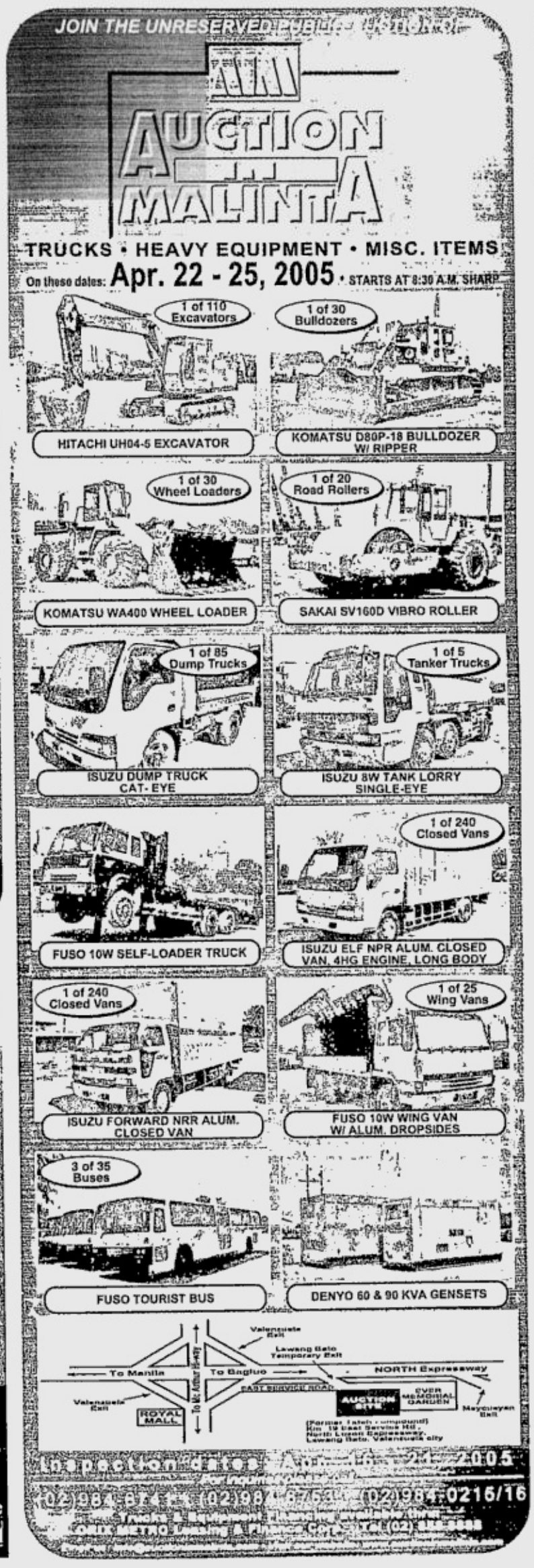
That, alone, should be enough consolation.

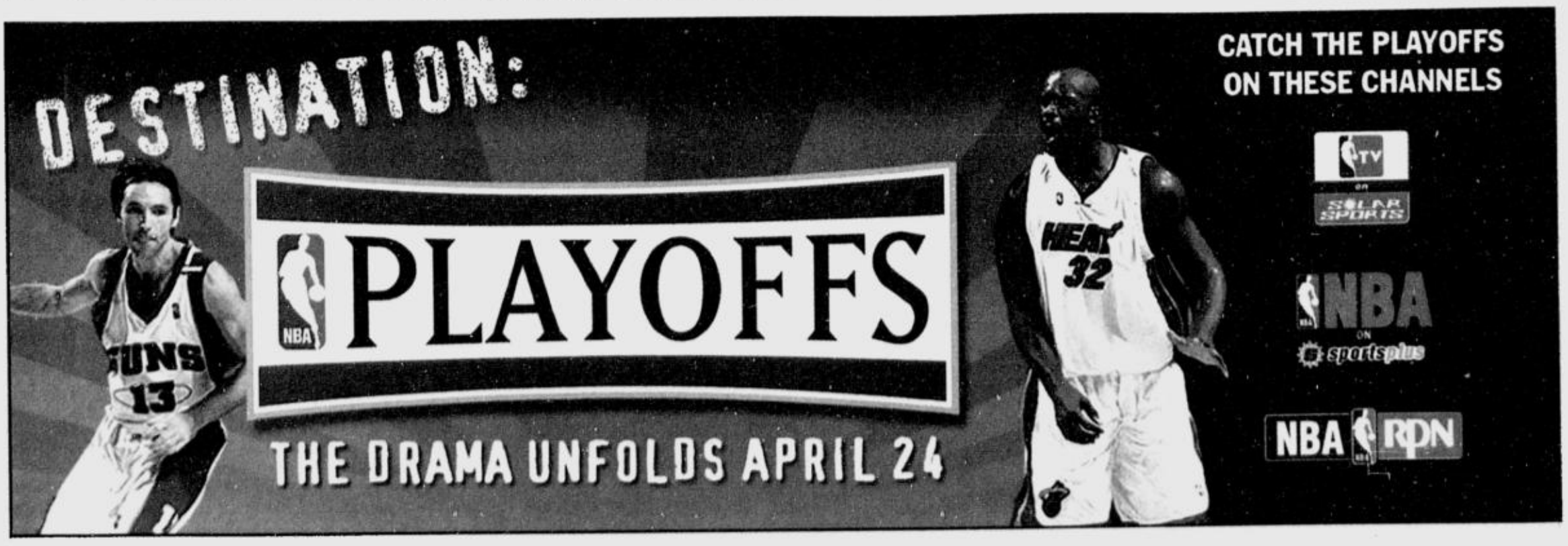
Of course, it goes without saying that Cojuangco, who definitely knows and loves basketball, will be there to tackle bigger odds in his bid to help RP regain its lofty standing in the Asian scene.

Benching a useless, troublesome former main player was just the start.

Petron Legendary Adventure tomorrow

ADVENTURE game aficionados are expected to come in droves for the third staging of the Petron Blaze Subic Legendary Adventure tomorrow at the Subic Bay Freeport Zone. Teams will explore more secluded locations, steer through new nature spots, search for concealed items, perform strenuous tasks, untangle puzzles and mental quizzes all in the spirit of fun, teamwork and concern for the environment. The event, cast in the tradition of The Amazing Race, is sponsored by Petron Blaze, Subic Legend Hotel and the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority. The race is also in line with the celebration of International Earth Day. Each team will set off on a six- to eight-hour adventure journey through Subic's rich tropical landscape.





SPORTSWATCH

WINNING IN LOSING
Ring Magazine's people's featherweight champion Manny Pacquiao earned greater respect from boxing enthusiasts around the globe with the bravery he showed in his losing fight against Mexico's Erik Morales recently. Fighting with just one eye from the fifth round onwards, the Filipino ring idol from Gen. Santos City also won praise from the management of No Fear Philippines for living up to the No Fear slogan "Face your fears, live your dreams." Company Jimmy Ong presents Pacquiao with a plaque of recognition at the No Fear office in Pasig City.

Automakers sign up for SPMJ Golf

FIVE car companies have signed up for the 2nd SPMJ Golf Invitational Cup to be held at the Riviera Golf Country Club in Silang, Cavite, on April 26. The fund-raising event, organized by the Society of Philippine Motoring Journalists and sponsored by Total Philippines, has drawn the participation of Ford Group Philippines, Honda Cars Philippines, Isuzu Philippines Corp., Mazda Philippines, Mitsubishi Motors Philippines Corp., Toyota Motor Philippines, Inc., Nissan Motors Philippines, Inc. General Motors Philippines, BMW Group Philippines, Universal Motors Corp. and Volvo Cars. Trophies will be provided by Asahi Glass Corp.

7th PCCA 4-cock derby on today

THE SEVENTH edition of Pasay Cockpit Cockers Association (PCCA) 4 – Cock Derby gets going today at the air – conditioned Pasay City Cockpit. Sponsors are Complexor 3000 and Casino Filipino – Silahis. The first of 62 fights will start at 6 p.m., said pit managers Eric dela Rosa and Butchoy Olano. At stake is a cash prize of P300,000. Ten entries, with identical 3 – 1 (win-loss) slates, shared the championship of the sixth PCCA derby held last April 8. Call 843 –1746, 843- 1890 and 816- 6750.

AS JU WG Listana top favorite

THE POWERHOUSE team of William Go, James Uy and ASF Group sets out as top favorite when the Gentlemen Cockers Association of the Philippines (GCAP) 7 – Cock Derby unfolds on Monday and Wednesday at the Las Piñas Coliseum. Their combined entry, AS JU WG Listana, topped the sixth GCAP derby recently, using the deadly Sweater Roundheads from popular Negros breeder Nene Abello. Attention will also be focused on the rivalry for the GCAP Cocker of the Year plum, pitting leading contenders Gerry Ramos (Against All Odds) and Benjie Lim (Burahod Nim Kauswagan). For details, call 873-1040 and 874-3910.

Para sa Bayan bullstag derby tomorrow

THE CHAMPIONSHIP round of the "Para sa Bayan National 7-Bullstag Derby" takes place tomorrow at the Araneta Coliseum with more than 60 qualifiers, out of a field of 150 entries, seeing action. Hosted by the National Federation of Gamefowl Breeders, in support of the Philippine Sports Commission, "Para sa Bayan" is the first national bullstag event. Proceeds will go to the Philippine Sports Commission's fund-raising campaign for the forthcoming 23rd Manila Southeast Asian Games.

Fil-Estate tennis clinic set

TECSON

TO ACCOMMODATE those who missed the first clinic, the Fil-Estate Sports Foundation, Inc. (FESFI) will again hold a world-class tennis program at the Manila Southwoods Sports Club in Carmona, Cavite, on May 7-29. Headed by former RP Davis Cup team captain Manny Tecson, the clinic has attracted more than 50 students since it started on April 3. The second batch of enrollees will begin their classes on May 7. Former NCAA singles champion Von Ruelan and former MSU player Boyet Limpahan are also in the coaching staff. For inquiries, call Manny or Linda Tecson at 938-9522 and 939-4851. Supporting the tennis camp are Metro Rail Transit Corp., R.R. Payumo and Partners, Camp John Hay, Manila Southwoods Manor Hotel, Wilson Sports, Accel Sports Wear, GASPEED and Splash Island.

RACING 7/2
AT SANTA ANA BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Close Account 2. Gelay's Charm 3. Smart Kevin 4. Sham Sham
Race 2—1. Gabriela 2. Speed Mountain 3. Memorandum 4. Hot Number
Race 3—1. Material Ruler 2. Zaniga 3. U Are My Sunshine
Race 4—1. Tini Bambini 2. Snow Princess 3. Batang Kalookan 4. Flying Strike 5. Long Hitter
Race 5—1. Sweet Connections 2. Queen Bearheart 3. Teetotal 4. Empire Cat
Race 6—1. You and Me 2. Beatitudes 3. No Compromise 4. Classy Babe 5. Stock Rising
Race 7—1. Silver Eagle 2. Magic Bullet 3. Galaxy Wars 4. Sand Splash
Race 8—1. Red Bells 2. My Sheikh 3. Words of Joy 4. Silent Operator/Extreme Magic 5. Cuadro de Alas
Race 9—1. Boxster 2. Ponchito 3. Blue Sheikh 4. Unrivaled 5. Doña Gelay 6. Super Dave

Yee wrests Class A lead; Supe

MICO Yee capped a two-under-par 70—his second sub-par round in three days—with a birdie on the last hole to wrest a two-stroke lead over Tonton Asistio after the first stage of the Samsung Jungolf Tour's Junior World qualifying tournament at the Canlubang north course.

The lead changed hands six times as both players from Manila Southwoods kept the battle for the Class A plum very close going into the other half of a 108-hole duel at Sherwood Hills next week.

Yee was at 213 after earlier rounds of 69 and 74, while Asistio, no thanks to a bogey on the 18th, settled for a 72-215. Matthew Manotoc, steady in the first two rounds, shot himself in the foot with an 80 and was a far third at 226.

Wolen Superal's five-under 67 from the shorter tees gave him an almost unbeatable 33-stroke spread in boys' Class C in the tourney also supported by Philippine Airlines and Unilever and staged by the Junior Golf Foundation of the Philippines to form the country's delegation to the annual Junior World in San Diego, California this July.

Bambee dela Paz (girls' Class A), Dottie Ardina (girls' Class C), Christina Potenciano (girls' Class D), Princess Superal (girls Class E), AR Ramos (boys' Class E) and Ryan Monsalve (boys' Class F) likewise erected double-digit spread in their respective divisions.

Regine de Guzman, meanwhile, brushed aside a 72 by Cyna Rodriguez with a 76 to remain on top by eight in girls' Class B at 222 and Abby Arevalo paced girls' Class F played at the Riviera executive course by nine.

Play in bo
Adrian Woo
by just two s
himself show
boys' Class D
les was ahea
Miguel Tabu
Ramos, th
Illinois last y
three days o
Tonton Arev.
The third rou
Class A: Bo

Roddick advances

HOUSTON—Top-seeded Andy Roddick defeated unseeded Robby Ginepri, 7-6 (6), 6-4, Wednesday to advance to the quarterfinals of the US Men's Clay Court Championships.

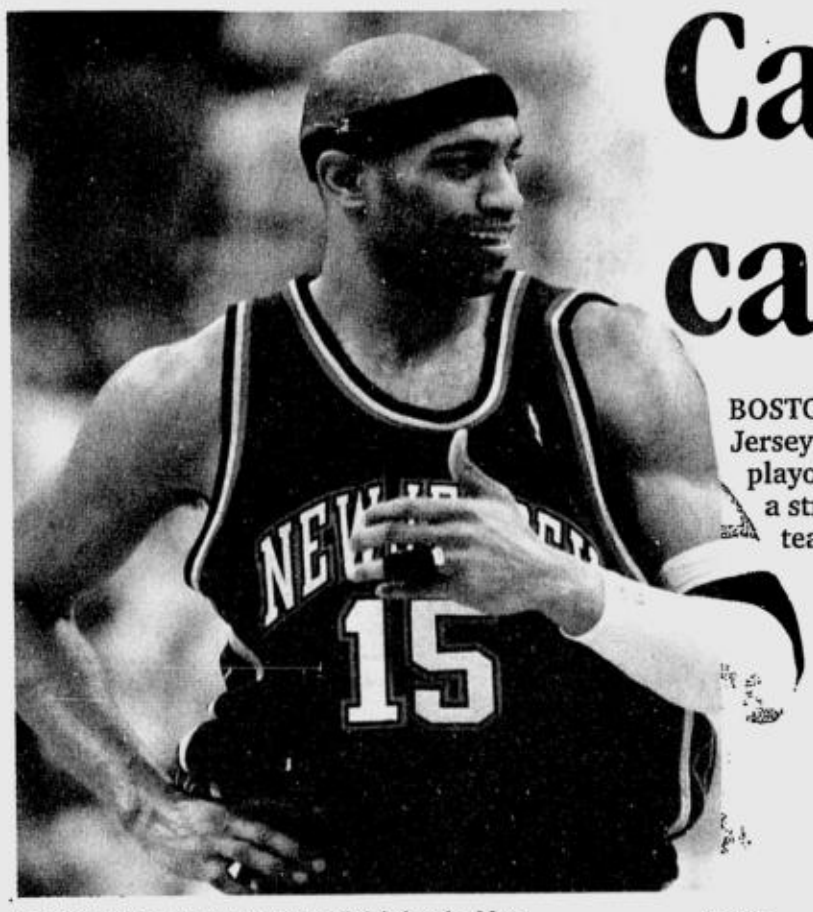
Roddick extended his record to 5-0 over Ginepri, but this match wasn't a runaway as neither player lost his serve en route to the first set tiebreaker.

All of Roddick's victories over fellow American Ginepri have been close; four of their last six sets have been decided by tiebreakers.

"He keeps coming up with new ways to try to beat me, and I keep trying to figure out ways to hold him off," Roddick said.

In other second-round matches, seventh-seeded Austrian Jurgen Melzer outlasted Noam Okun of Israel 2-6, 6-2, 7-5. Melzer overcame five break points in the first game of the third set and broke Okun in the 12th game, on the third match point.

Defending champion and third-seeded Tommy Haas of Germany beat American Jeff Morrison 7-6 (4), 6-2. *AP*



CARTER: Shaky start, strong finish for the Nets REUTERS

Carter catch

BOSTON—Vince Carter and t Jersey Nets clinched the NE playoff berth with a shaky s a strong finish—the same team's season went.

Carter shook off an en and scored 24 of his 37 po second half to lead the Ne back from a 19-point, sec ter deficit in a 102-93 wi Boston Celtics on Wednes

The Nets got the No. 8 s Eastern Conference and w top-seeded Miami on Su Celtics, who had already the No. 3 seed, will open t round series at home ag ana on Saturday night.

BEACH ULTIMATE

Europe, Asia teams head for Boracay

WITH only days before Cali Boracay Fever 2005—the ultimate summer event of the year—a total of 13 teams from Europe and Asia are headed to Boracay Island to get a piece of the action.

The two-day Beach Ultimate tournament, which unfurls tomorrow is sounding off its last call for participants. The deadline of submission of entries is today. Interested participants can send an e-mail to www.philippineultimate.org or contact X10 events at 373-0611 or 410-9423.

The tournament, now on its third year in the country, is sponsored by Cali, the non-alcoholic, sparkling fruit-flavored drink.

The defending champion Boracay Dragons will have their hands full in their title-retention campaign against local teams and equally competitive troops from Europe, Hong Kong, Bangkok and Korea.

The pulsating action among the local and foreign bets and the spectacular backdrop of the island definitely make the Cali Boracay Fever 2005 a refreshing breather this summer.

Serving as a delightful appetizer for the event is the Cali Boracay G-Mix Bartending Competition. It will be a bartending exhibition that pits the country's top mix masters against each other in a battle of wild moves and even wilder drinks. Cali tosses in its refreshing fruit flavor to this bartending showdown.

Beach Ultimate is a fast-paced sport that requires speed, stamina, athleticism, precision and agility. A more cohesive team with endurance and the right attitude definitely has a great shot at the title.

Beach Ultimate, which is rapidly growing in popularity in the Philippines, has simpler rules than other sports. A disc must be passed from one teammate to another, until the disc reaches the end zone of the playing area.

However, players cannot run with the disc or jump while passing. In Beach Ultimate, the player holding the disc has only six seconds to pass it to a teammate or his team loses possession. Interceptions can only occur when the disc is in play.

Lady cue artists spark Cavite, Manila victory

SOME women are better than men as far as billiards is concerned.

Cavite and Manila, fielding a woman player each, supported this notion when they turned separate opponents in the Touch Mobile 9-Ball Champions League at the SM Supermall activity area in Batangas City recently.

Cavite, drawing a win from Toni Ann Nobleza, downed Pasig, 5-2, while Manila, powered by Ruby Merces, coasted to a 5-1 victory over Pangasinan.

Merces' victory over Kriger Gapud sparked the victory that installed the Big City squad as one of the contenders in this event organized by Rocketman Enterprises, Inc. and backed by Touch Mobile, Brunswick, Accel and SM Supermall.

Eric Sandoval also scored for Manila, beating Carlo Biado to the delight of Team Manila manager Arnold "Ali" Atienza, who is also the chair of the Manila Sports Council (Masco).

"They played like real pros. I hope they play even harder and become a part of the national team someday," Atienza said.

Pampanga turned back Makati, 5-3, while host Batangas outclassed Team Parañaque, 5-1.

The event, put up by Rocketman's Ramon Tuason, was played using the race-to-five, doubles play format.

It was a sorry defeat for Pangasinan, managed by Rep. Mark Cojuangco, who was only able to form the squad a week before the tournament kickoff.

Gov. Ayong Maliksi was also ecstatic over the Caviteños' initial win even as Pasig Rep. Doglot Jaworski said he hopes to see his team get its act together in the coming weeks.

Batangas City, with host Mayor Eddie Dimacuha as manager, leaned on the strong support of the home crowd to beat Team Parañaque of Vice Mayor Anjo Yllana. SM Supermall in Dasmariñas, Cavite will host next Monday's games from 1-6 p.m.

MH Del Pilar bets dominate JVC badminton

THE MARCELO H. Del Pilar bets romped away with easy victories as Jennilyn Ebin and Jackilyn Cudia dominated their rivals to lead the quarterfinalists in the girls 16-under division of the inaugural JVC Regional Badminton Championships at the Excel Badminton Center in San Fernando, Pampanga, Wednesday.

Ebin whitewashed Louie Lazatin, 11-0, 11-0, in the upper half of the draw, while Cudia dropped only two points en route to bundling out Irish Manalac in the lower bracket of the tournament exclusively for 16 years old and below.

Chona Medina, another MH Del Pilar mainstay, scored a walkover win over Bea Salvador to arrange a quarterfinal showdown with Jessica Tantengco of Guagua National College, who disposed of Karen Gonzales, 13-11, 11-6.

Ebin's victory set her up against fancied Carla Lizardo, one of the two Golden Shuttle Foundation bets who advanced to the quarters of this event put up by giant electronics firm JVC.

Liza Encarnacion, also of GSF, downed Ma Jaevena Susbilla of MH Del Pilar, 11-4, 11-7, to arrange a clash with Camille Valencia of Guagua National College, who beat Gerjiel Macaspac of Sta Cruz Academy, 11-1, 11-2.

Not to be outdone, the MH Del Pilar boys also gained berths in the quarters with Edgar de Jesus, Emmanuel Cabalfin and Adrian Pagsanjan thumping their respective rivals in convincing fashions.

What can we expect from comebacking Parica?

CLEAN LIVING
Manolo R. Iñigo

ONE of the Philippines' greatest billiards players, Jose "Amang" Parica, has returned to the country bent on regaining past glory by competing in several tournaments, including the 2nd Hope All-Filipino Open set on May 16-22 under the aegis of Puyat Sports where he is seeded together with arch rival Efren "Bata" Reyes.

"I'm grateful to Mr. (Aristeo "Putch") Puyat for giving me this big break," said the diminutive, 55-year-old Parica. "I will not disappoint him and my legion of fans."

A genuine Manileño, Parica was the No. 1 billiards player in the Philippines in the 1970s when Reyes was just starting to make a name for himself. A holder of an associate degree in engineering from Mapua Tech, Parica won the Philippine Open in 1979 and, later on, lined his pockets with amazing victories in Japan, Taiwan and the United States, where he resided for many, many years.

In the US, Parica won more than 100 minor and major tournaments, including the coveted 1997 Camel Billiards Player of the Year award, beating no other than Reyes himself in the opening leg of the seven-leg series. However, Parica said he was unhappy that it had been his fate to live in the shadow of Reyes.

"I think I'm better than Efren," Parica once said in an interview. "Efren's a great player and he's tough to beat, but he beats me only when I'm not ready." He added he just couldn't understand why the so-called experts of billiards rate him so much lower than Reyes.

"They're dumb," said Parica, "and even dumber to vote Reyes into the Billiards Congress of America Hall of Fame in Las Vegas when the record will show that I have beaten Reyes more times in our previous meetings." He stressed the BCA didn't know what it was doing when his name was not even mentioned in the Hall of Fame balloting. That showed, Parica said, that there was no desire from among the BCA members to nominate him.

Parica was an original member of the star-studded Puyat Sports Team that competed in the money-rich US tour. Bankrolled by brothers Popit and Putch Puyat, the team was composed of Parica, Reyes, Francisco "Django" Bustamante, Leonardo Andam and Rodolfo Luat.

Parica, who had a weak break, credited Luat for strengthening his break. "I noticed we are about the same build and height and yet, he has so much power and accuracy," Parica said. "So I asked him how he did it. He showed me how and it worked for me."

Parica briefly retired from active competition in the early 1990s. It was marked by a scary chapter in his life when he faced the prospect of a long jail term for assaulting a man in a nightclub. According to reports, the man was bothering Parica's wife (Aurora) and a fight ensued. Parica said the man claimed he lost his money, wallet, Rolex watch and jewelry. "We went to court and I spent a lot of money in lawyer's fees, not to mention that I was afraid of going to jail for a long time. But I won the case after almost three years." Still, Parica said, "If somebody tries to harass my wife, I'd do it again."

Parica said he has no plans of retiring yet. "I don't want them to forget about me."

* * *

ALL SET FOR 2005 PSA CUP. Everything is set for the fourth annual running of the blockbuster PSA Cup at the Sta. Ana Park on Sunday.

"We are grateful to Philippine Racing Commission chair Jaime Dilag for sponsoring this worthy undertaking," said Philippine Sportswriters Association president Jimmy Cantor of Malaya.

The country's leading horses, headed by Perfect Storm and Guad, have been nominated to run in the 1,600-meter race. Also on Sunday, the Sta. Ana Challenge Run will be staged with Moab, Don Paolo, Master King and Speed O' War expected to take part.

* * *

UNFAIR TREATMENT TO JETS. It is unfair to call the Parañaque Jets of TV host/actor and vice mayor Anjo Yllana a ragtag team of has-beens, actors and comedians following its victory over the national team in the finals of the recent National Basketball Conference.

Parañaque is deserving of the NBC championship because it trained just as hard if not harder than the other teams.

"The Jets are made up of veterans of the MBA and the PBA and the core comes from Ozamis Cotta, which figured in last year's south finals against defending champion Tribu Sugbu," said NBC general secretary Tito Palma.

Parañaque plays Spring-Laguna of NBC president Tac Padilla at the Cuneta Astrodome tomorrow. Admission is free at the bleachers' section.

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ral pulls away

vs' Class B remained tight with (76-234) leading Jikjik Abdon ots even as JR Gonzales found ng the way for the two seeds in after he shot a 63-197. Gonza- l of Bino dela Paz (64-198) and na (63-201).

e Pepsi Little People champ in ar, turned in his best round in 57 for a 174, leaving behind lo (62-186).

nd scores:

s: 213 Mico Yee 69-74-70, 215 Ton- ton Asistio 75-68-72, 226 Matthew Manotoc 73-72-81 Girls: 241 Bambee dela Paz 78-85-78, 251 Linnel de Villa 86-82-83, 269 Jyra Mae Wong 89-92-88

Class B: Boys: 234 Adrian Woo 78-78-76, 236 JikJik Abdon 79-80-77, 242 Jordan Mamaril 85-77-80; Girls: 222 Regan de Guzman 73-73-76, 230 Cyna Rodriguez 79-79-72, 233 Crystal Superal 75-80-78

Class C: Boys: 214 Wolen Superal 72-75-67, 237 Jan Ybanez 79-81-77, 239 Marcel Puyat 80-78-81; Girls: 225 Dottie Ardina 76-75-74, 245 Maan Legaspi 80-79-86

YEE: Second sub-par round ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

High winds suspend JW Classic 1st round

BEIJING—Play was suspended early on the first day of the Johnnie Walker Classic golf tournament here on Thursday due to high winds, organizers said.

Officials were monitoring the situation after gusts of up to 52 km per hour (33 miles per hour) forced the suspension.

"Tournament officials will monitor the situation and return players to the course when it is deemed the wind has abated suitably," organizers said in a statement.

Australia's Adam Scott was the early leader at three under par after nine holes, followed by France's Jean-Francois Lucquin, Jose Manuel Lara of Spain and South Korea's KJ Choi on two under.

The $2.3 million Johnnie Walker Classic, the highest-paying golf tournament ever staged in mainland China, is scheduled to run until Sunday at the Pine Valley course. *AFP*

delivers as Nets last bus to playoffs

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rly injury nts in the ts' come- nd-quar- over the lay. ed in the ill play at day. The clinched heir first- inst Indi-

Had the Nets lost, they would have been eliminated because Cleveland won at Toronto. Both teams finished 42-40, but the Nets had the tiebreaker edge by winning the season series over the Cavaliers.

In Toronto, LeBron James had 27 points, 14 assists and 14 rebounds to lead Cleveland over Toronto, 104-95, but the Cavs missed the playoffs when New Jersey beat Boston.

In Indianapolis, Jermaine O'Neal and Anthony Johnson saved Reggie Miller's farewell party and made sure Indiana won't open the playoffs in Detroit.

O'Neal had 21 points and Johnson added 20 to lead the Pacers past Chicago, 85-83.

It was the final regular-season game for Miller, who is retiring with 25,279 points in his 18-year career.

In Philadelphia, Allen Iverson scored all 16 of his points in the first quarter to put the finishing touches on his fourth scoring title, as Philadelphia rips Atlanta, 110-86, and ends up with the No. 7 seed in the Eastern Conference playoffs.

The Sixers (43-39) will play Detroit in the first round.

Iverson finished with an NBA-best 30.7 scoring average and joined Wilt Chamberlain, Michael Jordan and George Gervin as the only players with four scoring titles.

He led the league in turnovers per game (4.6), but also was second in steals (2.4), first in minutes (42.3) and averaged a career-high 7.9 assists. *AP*

Complete results: New Jersey 102, Boston 93; Philadelphia 110, Atlanta 86; Miami 98, Orlando 93; Charlotte 97, Detroit 86; Cleveland 104, Toronto 95; New York 113, Washington 105; Minnesota 95, San Antonio 73; Indiana 85, Chicago 83; Dallas 108, Memphis 88; La Clippers 86, New Orleans 75; Houston 106, Seattle 78; Portland 106, La Lakers 103; Golden State 106, Utah 89; Sacramento 132, Phoenix 107.

Singh joins Hall of Fame

HOUSTON (Sports Network)—Three-time major champion Vijay Singh has been voted into the World Golf Hall of Fame.

Singh will be part of the 2005 Hall of Fame class, of which additional members will be announced at a later date. Induction ceremonies are scheduled for Nov. 14.

The native of Fiji was named on 56 percent of the returned ballots in voting by writers, historians and golf dignitaries from around the world. He did not receive the required 65 percent of the vote for induction, but the rules state that if "no candidate receives 65 percent, the nominee receiving the most votes will be inducted, providing he is named on at least 50 percent of the ballots returned." The 42-year-old Singh will become the youngest member to be elected on the PGA Tour/Champions Tour ballot. *Reuters*

SINGH

John Hay Invt'l blasts off

ANOTHER exciting and fun-filled golf tournament opens today as 150 club members and guests flock to Baguio City to participate in the third CJH Invitational set at the Jack Nicklaus-redesigned course of the Camp John Hay Golf Club.

The field represents 75 pairs vying for team honors and attractive raffle items, including a complete Wilson iron set at stake as the major hole-in-one prize. In case no one shoots an ace, the set would be raffled off during the awards ceremony tomorrow. Club chair Robert John Sobrepeña leads the ceremonial drive with special guests Baguio City Mayor Braulio Yaranon, Vice Mayor Peter Rey Bautista and Camp John Hay chief operating officer Benigno Cabrieto.

Smart Communications is the major sponsor and Wilson Sports ace sponsor, according to Sports and Games Committee chair Freddie Mendoza.

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Question of the Week

Do you think Susan Roces would make a good leader for the opposition? Why or why not?

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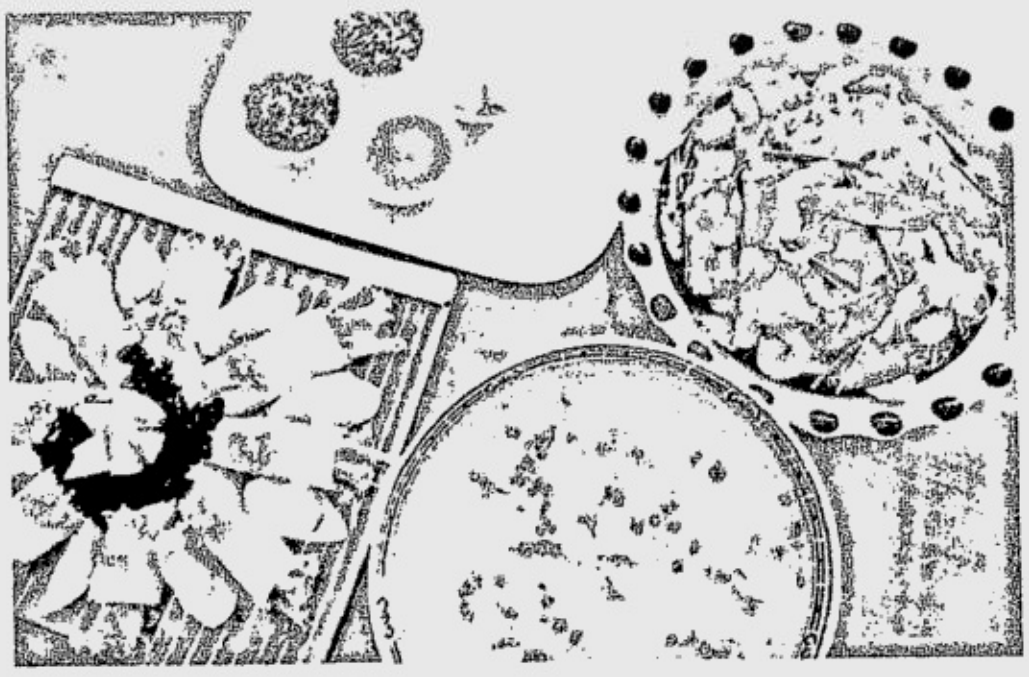

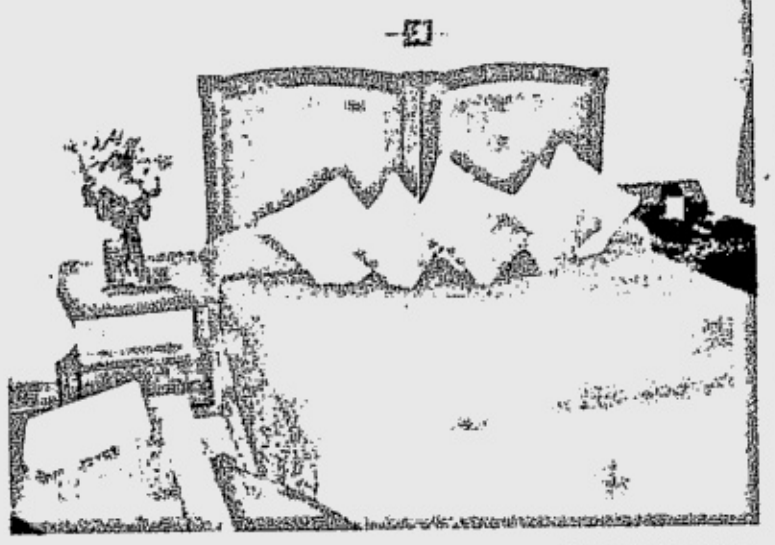

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Beat the summer heat at the Executive Plaza Hotel! Located at the heart of Malate, experience ultimate fun and adventure with the city's corporate boutique hotel. Avail yourself of the refreshing, affordable rate of P1,600 nett, room only, for single and double or twin occupancy. For inquiries and reservations, call the sales office at 525-8969 or 523-1000.

Feel the heat this summer at Las Palmas

MAKE Las Palmas Hotel your official residence this summer season! Enjoy its refreshing, affordable promo of P1,700.00 nett for single or double occupancy for standard room inclusive of free breakfast. Promo offer is for local residents and *balikbayans* only. Advance reservation is required.

It is that time of the year once again when we crave for outdoor activities, beach adventure and just almost anything fun under the sun! Chill out with Sta. Fe Coffeeshop and Cocoy's Restaurant's special Halo-Halo. For only P180.00 nett, beat the summer heat with its mouth-watering, icy treat. For reservations, call 521-1000 for Sta. Fe Restaurants and 522-1000 for Cocoy's Restaurant. Sta. Fe Coffeeshop is located at the ground floor of Las Palmas Hotel, while Cocoy's Restaurant is at the lobby level of Palm Plaza Hotel. Promo is good until April 30 only.

Full sensation of spring in bloom

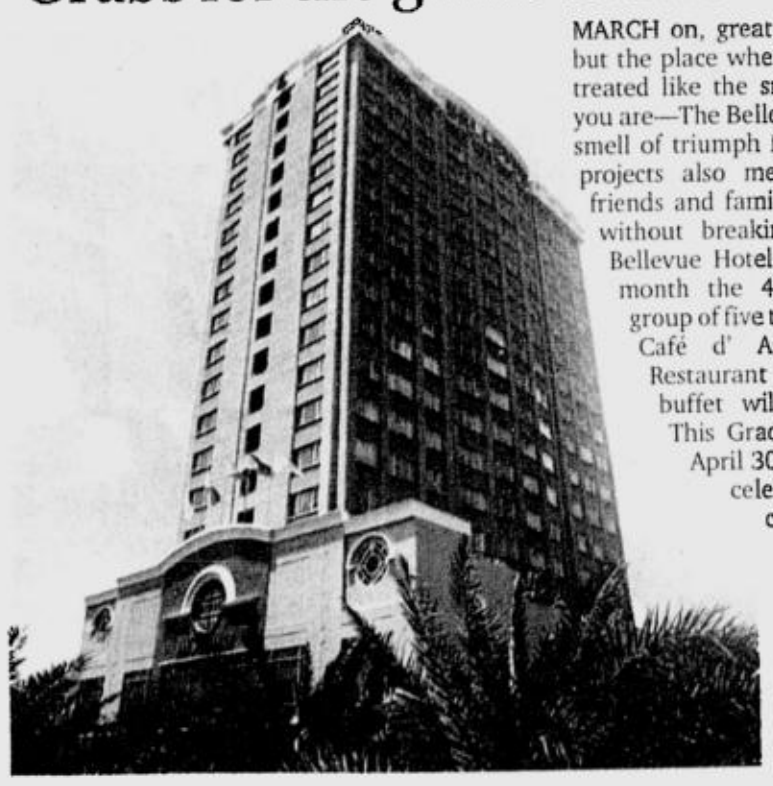
WELCOME the Italian Spring at Shangri-La's Mactan Island Resort's bellissimo-ristorante, Paparazzi. The colors, aromas and flavors of spring are in full bloom as Chef Marco Anzani takes you on a gastronomic journey with his culinary creations. Some of the most scrumptious springtime dishes using only the freshest ingredients, herbs and spices are brought together in Primavera Italiana.

For starters, indulge in an appetizing Fresh Marinated Salmon with crisp Parmesan and balsamic Mesclun leaves on dill pesto followed by a delectable Risotto Truffles Essence. For your main course, choose between a succulent Beef Tenderloin Medallion with Cabernet wine or equally tasty Pan Fried Red Snapper Escalope with lemon and parsley sauce. Cap off your meal with a sinful but irresistible Amaretto and Mascarpone Cheese Cream.

Paparazzi is the premier Italian restaurant on the island serving the most authentic dishes. Open daily for dinner from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. with an Italian dinner buffet on Wednesdays and an Italian buffet lunch on Sundays from 12 noon to 2:30 p.m.

Primavera Italiana is available nightly from April 22 to May 8. Enjoy a special 15-percent discount until April 29. For reservations and more information, call the hotel's restaurant reservation and information center at (032) 2318-224.

Grabs for the grads at The Bellevue



MARCH on, great graduates, where to but the place where you are sure to be treated like the smashing success that you are—The Bellevue Hotel. The sweet smell of triumph from schoolwork and projects also means that you, your friends and family can enjoy the best without breaking the budget. The Bellevue Hotel gives graduates this month the 4+1 deal. For every group of five taking the buffet at the Café d' Asie Asian Specialty Restaurant and the Poolside, one buffet will be complimentary. This Graduation Treat is until April 30 only. For more lavish celebrations, book an exciting graduation party at The Bellevue Grand Ballroom with its large seating capacity, opulent Oriental furnishings and impeccable service. For inquiries, call 771-8181.

'A BIG, BIG EASTER' IN FUEGO HOTELS

It was a wonderfully fun and exciting Easter Sunday at the Pearl Farm Beach Resort, Taal Vista Hotel and Club Punta Fuego as all three properties simultaneously celebrated 'A Big Big Easter' last March 27, with its young guests. Young and old alike had their faces painted and were treated to yummy treats and entertained by Easter bunnies, clowns, magic shows, egg painting and other fun games, big prizes and the ultimate Hunt for the Big Ostrich egg! The grand-prize winners got cash prizes and gift certificates (P6000 at Taal Vista Hotel, P3000 at Pearl Farm, P2000 at Club Punta Fuego) and along with the other participating kids, got to take home lots of goodies. 'A Big Big Easter' was co-presented by Globe Gizmo and supported by Nestlé, Perfumeria Español, SM Department Store and Volvo. Taal Vista Hotel, Pearl Farm Beach Resort and Club Punta Fuego are managed by Fuego Hotels.

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2 GUESS WHO?
10:20 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

3 THE INTERPRETER
11:20 2:00 4:40 7:20 10:00

4 THE JACKET
11:15 1:25 3:35 5:45 7:55 10:00

5 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
10:40 1:30 4:20 7:10 10:00

6 THE WEDDING DATE
11:10 1:20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00

7 PARAISO
1:20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00

8 BOSO
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

9 SAMARA RING 2
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

10 THE PACIFIER
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

ERMITA — 536-7809 to 12

1 THE INTERPRETER
10:20 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

2 SAHARA
11:10 1:50 4:30 7:10 9:50

3 GUESS WHO?
10:20 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

4 THE WEDDING DATE
10:20 12:15 2:10 4:05 6:00 7:55 10:00

5 THE JACKET
10:40 12:50 3:05 5:20 7:35 9:50

6 BOSO
10:40 12:50 3:05 5:20 7:20 9:40

7 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
11:10 1:50 4:25 7:00 9:40

METRO EAST — 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 PARAISO
11:00 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

2 SAHARA
12:30 3:20 6:10 9:00

3 THE WEDDING DATE
11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10

4 SAMARA RING 2
11:20 1:40 4:00 6:30 9:00

5 GUESS WHO?
11:50 2:30 5:10 7:50 10:30

6 THE JACKET
12:30 3:00 5:30 8:00 10:30

7 THE INTERPRETER
11:50 2:30 5:10 7:50 10:30

8 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
10:55 1:50 4:45 7:40 10:30

NOVALICHES — 935-3229/31

1 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
11:50 2:40 5:30 8:20

2 THE INTERPRETER
11:50 2:40 5:30 8:25

3 PARAISO
10:15 12:25 2:35 4:45 6:55 9:00

4 THE JACKET
11:00 1:20 3:40 6:00 8:20

5 GUESS WHO?
11:20 12:50 3:20 5:50 8:25

6 SAHARA
11:50 2:40 5:30 8:25

7 RESERVE

8 RESERVE

PIONEER — 687-5378

1 SAHARA
2 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
3 GUESS WHO
4 THE INTERPRETER

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575

1 ASTERIX AND OBELIX
2 HIDE AND SEEK
3 BOOGEYMAN
4 PARAISO

CAINTA — 240-4661

1 THE INTERPRETER
2 GUESS WHO?
3 SAHARA
4 THE WEDDING DATE

Boso is the first digital film by ***DIGITAL VIVA*** *and is directed by the award-winning director,* ***JON RED***

"BOSO, shot on a digital video, is a sexy dark comedy about Jake, caretaker of a boarding house by day and a peeping-Tom by night. In a place filled with twisted characters and absurd lives, he oversees each tenat's secrets, daily routines and private world. Jake continues "playing God" until he meets and falls for Cecilia, a woman who makes him realize the essence of beauty - unseen by the eyes. Later, a tragic accident leads to an unexpected twist and dramatic confrontation.

Starring:
KATYA SANTOS, ALLEN DIZON, GWEN GARCI, JEFFREY QUIZON

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1 THE PACIFIER
2 HIDE AND SEEK
3 ONG BAK
4 ALONE IN THE DARK
5 SAHARA

LIPA — (043) 757-3664, (043) 312-5870

1 HOSTAGE
2 BE COOL
3 BIRTH
4 SAMARA RING 2
5 CLOSER

DASMARIÑAS — (046) 852-2125, (046) 416-4332

1 HIDE AND SEEK
2 SHAOLIN VS. EVIL DEAD
3 PARAISO
4 BUNSHINSABA
5 SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS

ANGELES — (045) 892-2348

1 BE COOL
2 SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS
3 BOOGEYMAN
4 ONG BAK

IMUS — (046) 875-3838, (046) 471-8188

1 PARAISO
2 GUESS WHO
3 BOOGEYMAN
4 ONG BAK
5 OKAY KA PARE KO
6 SAHARA

STARMILLS — (045) 875-1927, (045) 961-5270

1 SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS
2 THE WEDDING DATE
3 THE PACIFIER
4 MS. CONGENIALITY 2
5 BE COOL
6 ONG BAK

BACOLOD — (034) 441-4453, (034) 441-0449

1 THE PACIFIER
2 CONFIDENCE
3 BE COOL
4 HIDE AND SEEK
5 CURSED
6 SHAOLIN VS. EVIL DEAD

ILOILO — (033) 336-8170

1 MS. CONGENIALITY 2
2 BOOGEYMAN
3 SAMARA RING 2
4 THE PACIFIER
5 CLOSER
6 ALONE IN THE DARK

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AYALA CENTER GLORIETTA • Greenbelt

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

AYALA CENTER CEBU

AYALA MALLS Lovemall!

ALOHA YO!
Featuring music from Disney's Lilo & Stitch Island Favorites

Sony Music

AYALA CENTER — April 21 & 22 6:30 pm, April 23 & 24 11:30 am, 3pm & 6pm, Glorietta Activity Center

ALABANG TOWN CENTER — April 29, 30 & May 1, 3pm & 6pm, Activity Center

AYALA CENTER CEBU — May 6 to 8, 11 am & 6pm, Activity Center

TOWER RECORDS. Lovemall! www.ayalamals.com.ph

Catch Lilo's summer musical show live at the Ayala Malls featuring Bea Binene as LILO - Chynna Ortaleza and Nadine Samonte as NANI - Dion Ignacio and Tyrone Perez as DAVID - Paul Salas as DANIEL. Plus the SOP boys - Emil and Yovel. Directed by Freddie Santos

At the Activity Center

GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER	AYALA CENTER CEBU
Aloha Yo! Lilo's Summer Adventure featuring music from Disney's Lilo N' Stitch Island Favorites Album with GMA Artists, April 21-24 2005	Enchanted Kingdom, April 21 - 24, 2005	BPI Automadness Opening Ceremonies, April 21, 2005

AYALA GREENBELT

A Day with An Artist
April 23 & 30, 2005

GREENBELT Onstage

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Whose Wife is it Anyway?
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For inquiries, please call 887-0710

Ayala MUSEUM

Visit the New Ayala Museum located beside Greenbelt 4 along Makati Avenue.
For inquiries, please call 757-7117.

AYALA CINEMAS

AYALA CINEMAS — THX

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G1 (GLORIETTA 1)	1 THE JACKET	2 GUESS WHO	3 THE WEDDING DATE	4 THE INTERPRETER
G4 (GLORIETTA 4)	1 THE JACKET	2 THE WEDDING DATE	3 THX THE INTERPRETER GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 SAHARA	5 RING OF NIBELUNGS	6 GUESS WHO	7 SAMARA (RING 2)
GB1 (GREENBELT 1)	1 THE INTERPRETER	2 GUESS WHO		
GB3 (GREENBELT 3)	1 THX THE INTERPRETER GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX GUESS WHO GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 FINDING NEVERLAND GUARANTEED SEATS	4 THE WEDDING DATE GUARANTEED SEATS	5 THE JACKET GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC (ALABANG TOWN CENTER)	1 THX GUESS WHO	2 THE INTERPRETER		
	3 THE JACKET	4 RING OF NIBELUNGS	5 THE WEDDING DATE	
ACC (AYALA CENTER CEBU)	1 HIDE & SEEK	2 THE SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS	3 MILLION DOLLAR BABY	4 CLOSER

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MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13

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SM Cinema — ABS-CBN — AYALA CINEMAS

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CAN THIS BE LOVE

April 29 (Friday)
4:00 PM
GLORIETTA 1
CINEMA LOBBY

FREE picture taking & autograph signing with the stars for the first thirty (30) moviegoers who will present their CAN THIS BE LOVE movietickets at the Glorietta 1 cinema customer service booth on April 29.

Customer Service text hotline: 0917 6095900
Customer Service text hotline: Glorietta - 752 7272; from 10am to 8pm
Greenbelt - 752 4853; from 11am to 12mn
Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; from 10am to 8pm
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc 324

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1. Samara (Ring 2)
2. Wedding Date
3. Sahara
4. Ring of Nibelungs

Guaranteed Seats Cinemas: P90.00

5. The Jacket
6. The Interpreter
7. Guess Who

EVENTS! EVENTS!

MARKET! MARKET! Bonifacio Global City — The fun is in the finds

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A special trade / exhibit fair for the empowerment of OFW and SME families, featuring guest speaker Congressman Edcel C. Lagman, Chairman of House Special Committee on Overseas Filipino Workers.

April 21-24, 2005 · 11am-9pm
Activity Center

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Sex videos annoy Binoe

By Marinel R. Cruz

ROBIN warns indiscreet men PHOTOS BY RAFFY LERMA

SHARON, first-time producer

SEX videos would not proliferate if we respected one another. I pray that this does not happen to any of my daughters. *'Wag nila akong bibiruin* (Don't anybody dare). I've been to jail, *at kinaya ko doon* (and survived it)."

Clearly annoyed, actor Robin Padilla told entertainment writers in no uncertain terms on Wednesday that anyone stupid enough to show him or his family any such "disrespect" had better beware.

"I would tell my daughters to be wary, but the guys to be warned," the actor, also known as Binoe, said.

"People keep blaming cell phones when they should be blaming themselves," Robin pointed out, referring to the most current mode of passing on sex videos. "Why should [any woman] agree when her boyfriend asks to record their lovemaking? But if you really want to do such a thing, this is what you really want, make sure you delete the video afterward."

Fatherly counsel

He counseled, like a father to young ones: "Guys should remember that their girlfriends would agree to do such a video only because they trust and love you. Whatever happens to your relationship, it's important that you still have respect for each other."

Besides, he added, channeling the more familiar Binoe, *"Nakakawala ng pagkalalake ang pagiging tsismoso* (Being a blabbermouth diminishes your masculinity)."

In 1995, Robin was convicted and sentenced to a jail term of 17 to 21 years for illegal possession of firearms. He was granted presidential pardon after serving about three years.

The actor and his wife Liezl Sicangco have four children, three of them girls—Queenie, 13, Kylie, 11, and Shin Shin, 9.

Exposés related to sex videos have practically been a staple of show biz talk shows for weeks now. ABS-CBN recently complained to the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) and the Professional Artists Managers Inc. (Pami) about the showing of one such video said to involve ABS-CBN talent Piolo Pascual. Other alleged "victims" so far are Paolo Bediones, Troy Montero and Ethel Booba.

According to Robin, his eldest daughter is bent on following in his footsteps as a movie star. He said he was initially disappointed. "But I can't contradict what she wants to do in

SEX/ A2-2

Talent handlers enlist ad men vs talk shows

By Bayani San Diego Jr.
Contributor

TWO months after its dialogue with major TV networks, the Professional Artist Managers has run to the country's top four advertising organizations for help in its campaign for "ethical entertainment journalism."

Pami sent the advertisers a letter requesting a dialogue and consultation following a spate of "sex-video scandals" on television.

The group's 27 members all signed the letter/resolution sent on Wednesday to Belen Fernando, president of the Philippine Association of National Advertisers (Pana); Raul Alvarez, chair of the Advertising Board of the Philippines (AdBoard); Oscar Valenzuela, AdBoard executive director; and Susan Dimacali, chair of the Association of Accredited Agencies (4As).

Pami member Shirley Kuan-Saldias told INQUIRER Entertainment that the move was but a continuation of the drive to curb sensationalist entertainment reportage on TV.

The group earlier sat down with executives of ABS-CBN and GMA 7 to clarify the networks' "guidelines and standards" regarding entertainment news.

In the letter, Pami emphasized that it hoped to ascertain the possibility of an "alignment" with advertisers to make the networks more cooperative.

Wyngard Tracy, another Pami member, said advertisers would be the best ally in the campaign against "trashy" TV.

In a related development, award-winning filmmaker Jose Javier Reyes said he was likewise set to present to top advertisers a position letter regarding the issue, with the signatures of hundreds of artists and other media workers.

WHAT'S INSIDE

LVN bows out gracefully /A3-1

Jeturian's new film raises hopes /A3-3

18th Awit Awards contenders listed

THE PHILIPPINE Association of the Recording Industry (Pari) has announced the contenders for the 18th annual Awit Awards, to be staged last week of May.

Five finalists were chosen for each category, out of thousands of nominations submitted to Pari. The entries were screened by a special committee made up of composers, music arrangers and directors, lyricists, entertainment personalities, music reviewers, radio jocks, music retailers and music enthusiasts.

NINA

Best Performance by a Female Recording Artist: Bituin Escalante for "Gabing Kulimlim," and "Always Somewhere"; Frenchy Dy, "Raindrops will Fall"; Kitchie Nadal, "Wag Na Wag Mong Sasabihin"; Nina, "I don't Want To Be Your Friend."

Best Performance by a Male Recording Artist: Jimmy Bondoc, "Let Me Be The One"; Artstrong, "Jazzy Monday"; Gary Valenciano, "How did You Know" and "Because Of You"; Christian Bautista, "The Way You Look At Me."

Best Performance by a Duet: Pido/Paolo Santos, "Unexpectedly"; Pido/Jen Panuncio, "On & On"; Jerome John Hughes/Kyla, "Pagbigyan ang Puso"; Jennylyn Mercado/Janno Gibbs, "If I'm Not In Love With You"; Christian Bautista/Nina, "Miracle."

Best Performance by a Group (Recording): Bamboo, "Noypi"; Session Road, "Suntok Sa Buwan"; Sugarfree, "Hari Ng Sablay"; South Border, "Rainbow"; Ryan Cayabyab /San Miguel Master Choral/San Miguel Philharmonic Orchestra, "Tuwing Umuulan At Kapiling Ka."

CHRISTIAN Bautista

Best Performance by a New Female Recording Artist: Kitchie Nadal, "Wag Na Wag Mong Sasabihin"; Mishka Adams, "God Bless The Child"; Rachelle Ann Go, "Don't Cry Out Loud"; Frenchy Dy, "Raindrops Will Fall"; Marinel Santos, "Sa Pangarap Na Lang."

Best Performance by a New Male Recording Artist: Luke Mejares, "214"; Christian Bautista, "The Way You Look At Me" and "Say That You Love Me"; Jerome John Hughes for "Pagbigyan Ang Puso" and Migs Escueta for "Let It Be."

Best Performance By A New Group Recording Artists: Bamboo, "Noypi" and "Masaya"; Cambio, "DV"; Sipol, "Higher than High" and Dice & K9, "Itsumo."

Album Of The Year: Christopher Sy, Bamboo and Angee Rozul, "As The Music Plays"; South Border, "Episode III"; Tommy Tanchanco, Roca Cruz, Jack Rufo and Kitchie Nadal, "Kitchie Nadal"; Bella Dy Tan and Parokya Ni Edgar, "Inuman Sessions Vol. 1"; Christopher Sy, Francis Guevara and Kyla, "Not Your Ordinary Girl."

Song Of The Year: "Noypi," Bamboo; "Rainbow," Jay Oliver Durias and Sharon Inductivo; "Wag Na Wag Mong Sasabihin," Kitchie Nadal; "Suntok Sa Buwan," Hannah Romawac and Coy Placido; "Hari Ng Sably," Ebe Dancel.

Best Ballad: "Rainbow," South Border, Jay Oliver Durias and Sharon Inductivo; "Wag Na Wag Mong Sasabihin," Jack Rufo and Kitchie Nadal; "Wherever You Are," South Border, Michael Alaras and Jay Oliver Durias; "Let Me Be the One," Jimmy Bondoc and Wings Soriano and "If The Feeling Is Gone," Francis Guevara, Jimmy Borja and Kyla.

Best Rock: "Noypi," Bamboo and Angee Rozul; "Hari Ng Sablay," Raymund Marasigan and Buddy Zabala/Ebe Dancel/Sugarfree; "Bulong," Jack Rufo/Kitchie Nadal/Jeff de Castro/Mario Guzman; "DV," Cambio/Diego Mapa/Raymund Marasigan and "Suntok Sa Buwan," Maly Paraguya and Ian Umali/Coy Placido/Hannah Romawac and Coy Placido/Session Road.

Best Inspirational/Religious: "Rainbow," South Border/Jay Oliver Durias/Sharon Inductivo; "You're Worthy," Warner Music/12 Stones/Kitchie Nadal; "Hindi Diyos Nagbabago, Tao," Marvin Querido/Toto Sorioso/Sipol; "A Beautiful Sky," Cesar L. Manahan and Alan A. Ayque/Peach Abubakar/Lyn Sherman, "Follow Your Dream," Vehnee Saturno/Vehnee Saturno/Popsie Saturno/Sheryn Regis.

Best Instrumental Performance: "Ngayon & Kailanman," Jerome Nunez of the Mannos; "Kahit Na Abril ay Parang Pasko Pa Rin," Jay Gomez, Bong Rosario, Bobot Mabalot and Rommel Cruz; "Emmanuel," Jay Gomez, Bong Rosario and DJ Rodriguez, "Spain (I Can Recall)," Nyoy Volante & the Mannos and "1992," Isha.

Best Alternative Music: "Tsimis," Ryan Cayabyab/San Miguel Master Chorale/San Miguel Philharmonic Orchestra; "With You Around," Neil Gregorio/Artstrong; "My Imagination," Boom Dayupay/Mark Mely/Kark Villuga/Mike Solomon, Gloc 9/ Syke and Raymund Marasigan/The Akafellas; "Ang Himig Natin," Dominic "Papadom" Gamboa/Pepe Smith/Jr. Kilat and "Tulad Ng Dati Squid 9 Version," The Dawn/Jett Pangan.

Best Novelty: "Pasaway," J. Brothers/Jay Jimenez and Rene Comprendio; "Babae Po Ako," Chito Ilagan/Edwin Marollano/Tuesday Vargas; "Halukay Ube," Lito Camo/Sexbomb Girls; "Sasakyan Kita," Lito Camo/K and The Boxers and "Pamela," Christian Martinez/Vhong Navarro.

Best Dance: "The Show," South Border/Jay Oliver Durias/Vincent Michael Alaras; "Itsumo," Dice & K9; "Pasaway," J. Brothers/Jay Jimenez/Rene Comprendio; "Halukay Ube," Lito Camo/Sexbomb Girls; "Pamela," Christian Martinez/Vhong Navarro and "Let's Trip," Artstrong Clarion/Bneil Gregorio/Artstrong.

Best Christmas: "Kapuso Sa Pasko," Vehnee Satruno/GMA Various Artists; "Magandang Balita," Kedy Sanchez/Gary Granada; "X'mas Rapper," Aristotle Pollisco/Gloc 9; "Pikpirikpikpik (Busina Nag Pasko)," Louie Ocampo /Sexbomb Girls; "Ikaw ang Krismas," Jane Imperial and Larry Chua/Bayani Agbayani.

Best Rap: "Jazzy Monday," Artstrong Clarion/Neil Gregorio/Artstrong; "The Show," South Border/Jay Oliver Durias/Vincent Michael Alaras, "Itsumo" Dice & K9, "On Your Own" by Noel Macanaya/Krook & Jolo/Keyote Gilmore, Tehrain Baily/Jolo Raagas/Krook & Jolo; "Pambihira Ka Pinoy," Francis Magalona/Marlon Peroramos.

Best Jazz Recording: "Jazzy Monday," Artsrong Clarion/Neil Gregorio/Artstrong, "War Of The Skies," Alan Bates and Nieves Pascua-Bates/Mishka Adams, "Mama's Garden," Alan Bates and Nieves Pascua-Bates/Mishka Adams; "Higher Than High," Marvin Querido/Toto Sorioso/Sipol and "Unexpectedly," Lou Pacia/Pido Lalimarmo/Paolo Santos/Pido and Paolo Santos.

LUKE Mejares

ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Fireworks as main act

SHOW TIME

TO SEE a famous celebrity dancing in a show is usual. But to see lights dancing to the music, in the sky... that is magical.

Enchanted Kingdom invites everyone to "feel the magic" with "Spettacolo Pirotecnico" or "Fireworks of Art" as an additional attraction for its 10th anniversary celebration this summer.

"Spettacolo Pirotecnico" is a light and fireworks show that brings together three major forms of light—lasers, computerized lighting and pyrotechnics.

With all of these choreographed to astounding music, the extravaganza has been compared to the dance of fountains at Las Vegas' Bellagio Hotel.

"Unlike New Year's Eve fireworks shows that are mere random sky-bursts, this one follows a storyline. Several of our designs have never been seen before," says director Freddie Santos.

"Spettacolo Pirotecnico" is an offshoot of the annual fireworks competition held at the country's first theme park since it opened in 1995. This year, EK decided to do away with the contest. Six J Fireworks' Joel Sta. Ana, who has consistently won in the annual event, is the person behind "Spettacolo," along with sound and light designer Rene Cruz of EFX.

MARRI Nallos

PAL Villaluz

Dennis Cruz, EK vice president for marketing, says he hopes that the show raises the bar for local pyrotechnics.

"The display itself and the work behind it should be perceived as art," adds Cruz.

Dance with the lights every Saturday, from April 23 to May 21. Show starts at 9 p.m.

Kathryn L. Reyes

Tonight

Earth Day Jam street party featuring **Akafellas, Chin Chin Guttierez, Brownman Revival, Grace Nono, KC Montero, Kitchie Nadal, Lou Bonnevie, Makiling Ensemble, Parokya ni Edgar, Pido with Take One, Pinikpikan, RJ and Friends, Sponge Cola, Sugarfree** and **True Faith** at Tomas Morato Avenue, QC.

Dulce at Paynauen Festival in **Iba, Zambales.**

K24/7 back-to-back with **Passage** at **Dusit Hotel Nikko**, Fridays.

MTV Supahstar winners **Crizel Bañez, Kok Crisostomo, Krizia Daya, Ken Dingle, Buboy Kimpo, Rein Layug** and **Sitti Navarro** at the **SM Megamall Megastrip.**

Bedazzled II at **Club Mwah!** Call 535-7943.

Faith Cuneta at **SM Batangas.**

Rockin' Revival at **Funnside**, Timog Ave., QC.

Wally Gonzales and Friends, Sugarfree, True Faith, Pido with Take One and **Kearney Street** in back-to-back performances at **19 East Music Hall**. Call 837-6903.

Panacea at **Taste Buds Robinsons Place** Manila, 7 p.m.

Fat Session at **Tavern on the Square.**

Mocha with Spinart at **Hard Rock Cafe.**

Acoustic Jive at **Merk's** tomorrow.

JA Rule at **Araneta Coliseum**, 9 p.m. Call 911-5555.

Boyz II Men at the **PhilSports Arena (Ultra)**, with **Kyla** as guest. Call Ticketworld, 891-9999.

Moony Live in Manila at **Club Halo** and Premiere Cinema THX Milelong, Amorsolo St., Makati. Call 892-2503.

DJ Katakana, a.k.a. Jools at **Embassy** in Fort Bonifacio Global City.

K and the Boxers at the **Music Warehouse** in Meycauayan, Bulacan. Call 435-1120.

Dulce at Paynauen Festival in **Iba, Zambales.**

Kearney Street at **Dusit Hotel Nikko**, Saturdays.

Bedazzled II at **Club Mwah!** Call 535-7943.

Freestyle and **U-Turn** at **Starmall Edsa**, 5 p.m.

Faith Cuneta at **Pacific Mall Lucena.**

April 24

Earth Day Jazz Festival with **Sandra Lim Viray, Richard Merk, Romy Posadas, Mon David** with **Triology, Arthur Manuntag, Isha, Lynn Sherman, Nyko Maca** with **Viagem, Cooky Chua** and **Oranyan** at Plaza Strip of Rockwell Powerplant Mall, 4 p.m. Call 890-2007.

Ricky Davao in "Earthday Funday," a musical play for children at the **Tagaytay International Convention Center.** Call 816-9439.

"StarStruck Superstar" at **Enchanted Kingdom**, 7 p.m.

Dulce at Paynauen Festival in **Iba, Zambales.**

Joross Gamboa at **Metropolis Star Alabang**, 5 p.m.

Rachelle Ann Go at **Robinsons Metro East.**

Highway 69 at **Hard Rock Cafe.**

Wiseguys at the **Tavern on the Square** in Greenbelt 2 Makati.

April 25

Route 70 at **Dusit Hotel Nikko.**

"Retro Storm" with **Saniata** and **Ministix** bands at **Arkdia Bar** in Malate.

Freestyle at **Tavern on the Square** in Greenbelt 2 Makati.

Keystone Band at **Suburbia** in Malate.

Judith Banal with **Evolution** at **19 East Music Hall.** Call 837-6903.

April 26

Marri Nallos co-hosts the Regional Pageant of Miss Earth-Philippines with **Juan Rodrigo** at **Club Paraw** in Boracay.

Shanice Michael at the **Syncopado Piano Bar and Resto** in Malate.

Mocha and **Spin Art** at **Dusit Hotel Nikko**, Tuesdays.

Dio Marco, The Moonstrucks, Michelle de Guzman, Joy Viado and other surprise guest artists in a benefit show at **Funnside.**

Side A at **19 East Music Hall.** Call 837-6903.

April 27

Side A at the **Tavern on the Square** in Greenbelt 2 Makati.

K24/7 at **Suburbia** in Malate.

Freestyle at **19 East Music Hall.** Call 837-6903.

Bernie Uy at **Merk's.**

April 28

Pilita Corrales and **German Moreno** at "Love in April," a fund-raising concert for streetchildren at the **Music Museum**, 8 p.m. Call 825-9020.

Silkat Dusit Hotel Nikko, Thursdays.

8 Track at the **Tavern on the Square** in Greenbelt 2 Makati.

Robert Seña and **Isay Alvarez** in "Love You, Hate You, Love You," at **Merk's.**

Fat 4 with **Freshmen** band at **Ratsky Morato.**

Nyoy Volante w/ Mannos at **Suburbia** in Malate.

John Y Cash and The Jukeboxat Funnside, Timog Ave., QC.

April 29

Lito Camo takes center stage in "Lagi na Lang Kayo... Ako Naman!" at the **Music Museum**, 8:30 p.m. Call 891-9999.

Bedazzled II at **Club Mwah!** Call 535-7943.

Rockin' Revival at **Funnside**, Timog Ave., Q.C.

Lucid Band at **Taste Buds** Robinsons Place Manila, 7 p.m.

Acoustic Jive at **Merk's.**

Rachelle Ann Go in concert at **Aliw Theater** with **Mark Bautista, Christian Bautista, Jay-R** and **Ogie Alcasid** as special guests.

DULCE

JA RULE

K AND THE BOXERS

'Ray' spawns series of bio pics

By Pocholo Concepcion
Contributor

IT TOOK director-producer Taylor Hackford 15 years to bring his dream project "Ray" to the big screen. But the payback was worth the wait: an Oscar Best Actor award for Jamie Foxx who gave life to the late Ray Charles in the biopic, and a $76 million gross for the low-budget movie.

Now comes hot news that a whole new bunch of films based on the lives of musicians are either currently in production or being developed.

Phoenix as Cash

Heading the list is "Walk the Line," starring Joaquin Phoenix as the late Johnny Cash. The title is a take-off from one of Cash's best-known hits ("I Walk the Line"). Cash was one of the biggest names in American country music and said to be a major influence on rock 'n' roll. The film explores Cash's early years as an artist of Memphis' Sun Studios and his love affair with June Carter (portrayed by Reese Witherspoon).

The word is that Phoenix learned to play guitar from scratch and sings in his own voice in the film, unlike Foxx who lip-synched vocals recorded by Charles in "Ray."

Playing Cash's all-star circle of friends that included Elvis Presley, Roy Orbison and Jerry Lee Lewis are a support cast of relative unknowns.

Two as Joplin

Another film that should be of interest, at least to the baby boomer and hippie generations, is "The Gospel According to Janis." Said to be another 15-year-old dream project, this time of "Wayne's World" director Penelope Spheeris, "Janis" is about the short-lived, tragic life of the late Janis Joplin, one of the most exciting singers of the '60s.

Set to play Janis is the singer Pink, whom Spheeris said was very impressive during the screen tests. The problem is, Pink plans to tour and record a new album, which might force Spheeris to scout for another lead star.

Another movie on Joplin starring Renee Zellweger is reportedly being developed.

Here's a rundown of other forthcoming music movies with their respective synopses:

* "The Wild and Wycked World of Brian Jones": Starring Leo Gregory; an account of the last days of the extremely talented but destructive Rolling Stones guitarist, focusing on the mysterious circumstances of his drowning.

* "I'm Not There": Various stars in a surreal take on Bob Dylan's meteoric career, featuring his classic recordings, with permission from Dylan himself.

* "Last Days": Starring Michael Pitt; Gus Van Sant directs the story of a Kurt Cobain-like star's suicide.

* A still untitled tale of the "bullet-riddled" life of rapper 50 Cent starring himself and directed by Jim Sheridan.

* Another yet untitled flick about Napster founder Shawn Fanning who, despite not being a musician, has been sued by lots of them for sharing their music on the Net for free.

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Fat Session at the **Tavern on the Square** in Greenbelt 2 Makati.

April 30

Monique Wilson celebrates 25 years in theater with an anniversary concert at the **Music Museum.** Call 896-6695.

Kyla at the **Quezon Convention Center** in Lucena, Quezon

Prime Council and **Freestyle** at **Club Paraw,** Boracay for Winston in Concert series.

Bedazzled II at **Club Mwah!** Call 535-7943.

Faith Cuneta at **SM Sucat**

Wiseguys at the **Tavern on the Square** in Greenbelt 2 Makati.

May 1

"StarStruck Superstar" concert series at **Enchanted Kingdom,** 7 p.m.

Faith Cuneta at **Metropoint Pasay**

May 6

Christian Bautista in "The Way You Look at Christian Bautista," at **Casino Filipino in Parañaque. Dianne de la Fuente** is special guest. Call 911-5555.

Faith Cuneta at **SM Dasmariñas.**

May 6 to 29

"Once On This Island," a musical retelling of the Little Mermaid fable, at the **Carlos P. Romulo Theater,** RCBC Plaza, Makati City, with Friday and Saturday evening shows at 8 p.m. and Sunday matinee shows at 3 p.m. For interested fund-raising groups and sponsors, call 536-5844.

May 8

"StarStruck Superstar" concert series at **Enchanted Kingdom,** 7 p.m.

May 13 and 14

Ella May Saison is back in "Soulful, the Concert" at the **Music Museum. Nina, Akafellas** and **Jimmy Bondoc** are guest performers. Call 891-9999.

May 13 and 15

Alvin Barcelona, a Catholic lay preacher and singer-songwriter, in his first major concert, "Believe," at the **Party Central,** Mother Ignacia Avenue. For inquiries, reservations and sponsorships, call Beaconlight, 722-9562, or e-mail beacon@philonline.com.

May 14

Parokya ni Edgar, Kitchie Nadal and **Urbandub** at the **SM City Cebu** Parking Lot for MTV Hits Cebu Band Competition. For details, call (02) 889-9251 in Manila or (032) 234-0048 in Cebu.

Faith Cuneta at **SM Baguio.**

May 21

Paolo Bediones at the **Araneta Coliseum** for Carter's underwear fashion event, "The 'C' Show."

Pal Villaluz recently starred in a show at the **Solano Bistro** in Fairfield, California. She is set to do another round of shows in the US with Miriam Pantig, Rebecca Quintana and Jo Awayan. For inquiries, call 471-6555.

Sex videos annoy Binoe

'La Visa Loca' is one movie that helps him share his beliefs with others, the volatile actor says

From page A2-1

life." He was his daughter's age, he recalled, when he decided to chase his own dream.

Now, Robin said, he has become very choosy about roles. "As much as possible, I want my movies to have social relevance, to help me share my beliefs with others," he explained.

He said he has received a lot of offers lately, including one opposite a teen-aged leading lady. "*'Yan daw ang uso ngayon, pero hindi na bagay sa akin* (They say it's the fad, but I'm not sure it suits me," the actor pointed out. "You can't make me do something that I don't have the heart for."

Robin plays the lead in the comedy film "La Visa Loca," co-produced by former girlfriend Sharon Cuneta and Tony Gloria of Unitel Pictures. Mark Meily directs.

"La Visa Loca," Meily's second feature film, is based on the Palanca award-winning script "Penitencia Republic," which Meily himself wrote.

Talk about social relevance. Robin is Jess Huson, a street-smart limo driver whose ambition is to work in the United States as a caregiver—but first he should secure a US visa. It smacks of his own personal experience. "My first request for a US visa was rejected. *Matagal bago ako nabigyan* (It took a while before I got it). But I don't blame anyone; my record is not exactly spotless. I'm an ex-convict. There are people who really deserve to get visas, but get denied. This movie is about them."

"La Visa Loca" also stars Rufa Mae Quinto, Johnny Delgado, Tessie Tomas, Isay Alvarez, Robert Seña and Marissa Sanchez.

(e-mail the author at mcruz@inquirer.com.ph)

FROM left, Rufa Mae Quinto, Robin Padilla, Sharon Cuneta and director Mark Meilly at the press launch for 'La Visa Loca' RAFFY LERMA

Sharon Cuneta: Why I am producing this movie

I WAS asked to co-produce "Crying Ladies," but I couldn't because at that time, all my money was going to house repairs.

I've been in this business for the past 27 years. It's hard to admit the movie industry is in dire straits, but we can't deny it. This industry that I love very much really needs help. We can't let it die. I believe in this project. I believe that when something is done with good intentions, somehow it is blessed.

I decided to produce this for three reasons: Tony Gloria and I want to reaffirm our commitment to make good movies. We want to help revive the ailing industry. If this is successful, we may be able to create jobs for more people. There are only a handful of decent businessmen in the country and one of them is Tony Gloria. One thing I learned from him is that if you take on a project, you have to like it. If you like your project, chances are, people also will. So this may not turn out to be as big a hit as "Maging Sino Ka Man" (a movie she starred in with Robin Padilla) but, at least 20 years from now, when we watch it, we'll all feel happy and proud.

Second, this is written and directed by Mark Meily. He has this unique ability to tickle the audience, to make them laugh. Direk Mark is a blessing. He is a breath of fresh air. When I read the story, and eventually got to watch the film, I told myself, "Cute *siya, kakaiba* (it's unique)." I hope that it will strike a chord in moviegoers, just like "Crying Ladies" did.

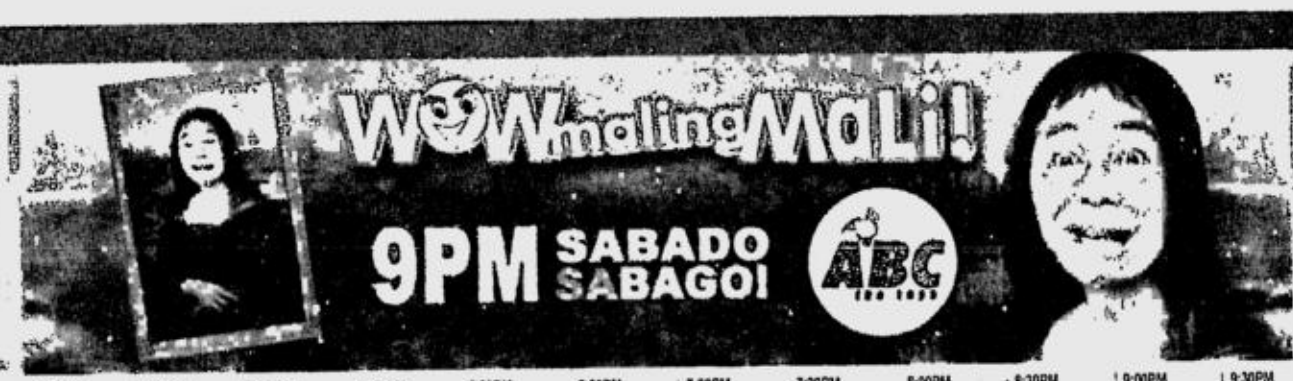
Lastly, I believe in Robin Padilla. This project was conceived with him in mind, *hindi po dahil sa minsan minahal ko siya* (not because I loved him once). I want people to see a different side of Robin. He's adorable. I respect his talent; I respect his commitment to the industry. *Pinakamasarap po siyang katrabaho* (He's most delightful to work with). We've known each other since 1991. He hasn't changed.

All in all, the movie cost P20 million. It is a gamble, and Robin helped us a lot, [although] of course, we all want to at least recoup our investment.

The title of this film was originally "Penitencia Republic," but it sounded too serious. We changed it to "Passion USA." But since the movie was really light, we decided on "La Visa Loca." So now everyone knows it's a comedy." *Marinel R. Cruz*

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TV GUIDE
Friday, April 22, 2005



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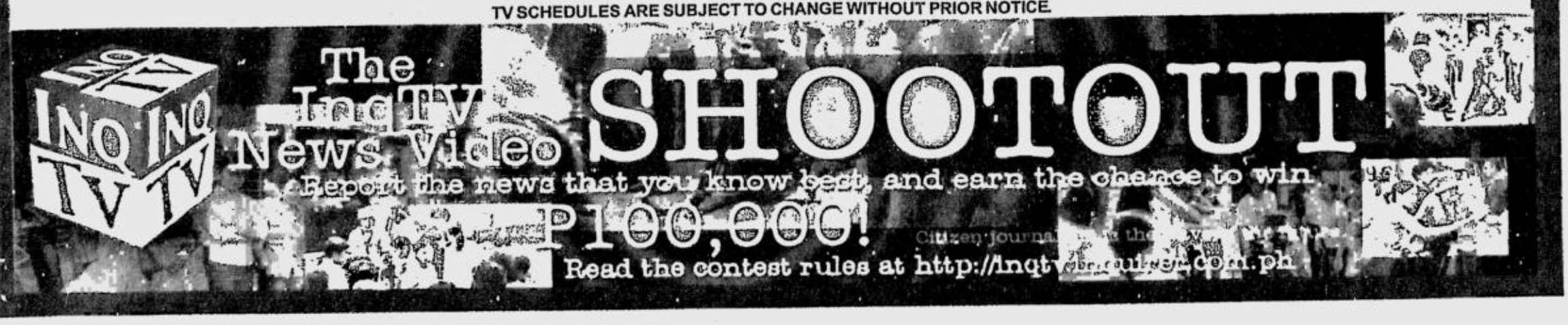
Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema				Showbiz No. 1 (4:25 PM)	Yu-Gi-Oh! (5:10 PM)	Naruto (5:35 PM)	Vidjoking	TV Patrol		Kamao	Krystala	Hiram	Spirits	Memories Of Bali	Stained Glass	Search For A Star In A Million		Insider
ABC 5			Problema Nyo, Sagot Ko	EZ Shop	PBA				Sentro	PBA					Big News	TNA Impact		Bilboard On-Air	
GMA 7		Saang Sulok Ng Langit	Now and Forever	Glass Shoes	One Piece	Hungry Heart	Knockout	24 Oras		Extra Challenge		Dama	All About Eve (8:45 PM)	Full House (9:15 PM)		Bubble Gang			Saksi
RPN 9	Metro TV Shopping			Hey Arnold!	As Told By Ginger	Wild Thornberries	Sponge Bob	Scare Tactics	The Ring	Crime & Punishment		Sports Illustrated		Biggest Loser		Newswatch Now	On The Road With Regine		
IBC 13		Lifestyle		EZ Shop		Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Lifestyle		Home Shopping Network		Johnny Walker Classic				One-On-One	IBC News Tonite	Pulis Na Palaban	GMA The Working President
JackTV		WWE Velocity		Thunder Box		Rastol	Ozzy & Drix	Mucha Luchal	The Sib Show	Stargate SG1		WWE Smackdown				WWE Velocity		Wow	
Nickelodeon	Blues Clues	Combo Nick				Are You Afraid of the Dark?	100 Deeds of Eddie McDowd	The Amanda Show	The Adventures Jimmy Neutron	Fairly Odd Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants	1, 2, 3	Nick Mix						Rugrats
MYX		Urban MYX		Pop MYX	OPM MYX	Take 5	My MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		Mellow MYX	Rock MYX	Pop MYX	Urban MYX	Star MYX	Club MYX	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	OPM MYX	Mellow MYX
ETC		JKX	Knock First	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Eliminate	Change of Heart	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	Arrested Development	Significant Others	Joan Of Arcadia		Average Joe		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
Cinema One		Pakuasbi Na Lang Na Mahal Ko Sya				Forevermore				Kiss Mo Ko				Apoy Sa Karagatan				Macho Dancer	
Studio 23		Urban MYX	Rock MYX	Pop MYX	OPM MYX	Jimmy Neutron, Boy Genius	Xiaolin Showdown	Teen Titans	Justice League	Wazzup Wazzup		Barkada Nights		Playing It Straight		News Central	Oprah		Yes Dear
AXN		The Contender		The World's Most Extreme Races		30 Seconds To Fame	30 Seconds To Fame	7 Days (Season III)		Pensacola (Season III)		Hollywood's Greatest Stunts	E Buzz	Cold Squad					
Star World	Cops	The Bold & The Beautiful		Hollywood Squares	Home Improvement	Ally McBeal		The Simpsons	The Drew Carey Show	Star News Asia	Friends	TNA Wrestling		Totally Outrageous Behavior Caught On Tape	Wild TV	Really Caught In The Act		Friends	Totally Outrageous Behavior Caught On Tape
CNN				Business International		Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	Business International		World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport
National Geographic		Welcome To Mars		Asteroid: The Doomsday Rock		Mission: Mars		The Snake Wranglers	Croc Chronicles With Dr. Brady Barr	Wow		About Asia		National Geographic Specials		The Dark Side Of Chimps/Welcome To Mars/Dawn Of The Maya		Zambezi Troop/Asteroid: The Doomsday Rock/Quest For Phoenixians	
Solar Sports						GWS Ep.14-2005	GWS Ep 13-2005	WTA Qatar Total Open '05				In This Corner		Hardwood Classics: Celtics @ Bucks '87					GWS Ep.16-2005
Lifestyle Network	Country Style	Interiors By Design	Decorating With Style	Decorating Cents	Moto Mario	Sweet Dreams	30 Minute Meals	Bill Boggs Corner	Unwrapped	Ming's Quest	Revealed With Jules Asner		New York Nick	Life & Style		Guess Who's Coming To Decorate		Adaptation	
HBO			Blue Thunder (3:40 PM)				The Spitfire Grill				Looney Tunes: Back In Action			Hulk				Jaws 2 (11:15PM)	
Star Movies				Target (A.K.A. Falcon)			Murder Of Crows			28 Days Later (7:05 PM)				The In-Laws			Hangman's Curse		
Cartoon Network	Scooby-Doo Show	The All New Popeye Show		Tom & Jerry Show	The Woody Woodpecker	Sylvester & Tweety Mysteries	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles	Teen Titans	Toon Pick	Gundam Wing	Shaman King	The Powerpuff Girls	Hi Hi Puffy AmiYumi	Ed, Edd N Eddy	Courage The Cowardly Dog	Star Wars: Clone Wars		Dexter's Laboratory	Gundam Seed
Disney Channel	Mr Bean: The Animated Series	Totally Spies	The Sleepover Club	Art Attack/Unfalkative Bunny	Buzz Lightyear Star Command	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr Bean: The Animated Series	House Of Mouse	Wonderful World Of Disney			My Wife And Kids	That's So Raven	America's Funniest Home Video	According To Jim	Wonderful World Of Disney	
Cinemax			Poodle Springs			Fatal Lessons: The Good Teacher				U Turn				Global Effect			The Skulls III (10:35PM)		
Hallmark Channel	Who's The Boss	Sue Thomas: F.B.Eye		HCA: The Fairytaler	Sesame Street		Mad About You	Who's The Boss	Bewitched	The District		Sue Thomas: F.B.Eye		Killer Instinct: From The Files Of Agent Candice Delong			Wife Swap (10:35PM)		The District (11:25PM)
Discovery Channel		Power Zone				Wild Discovery		Ultimate Discovery		Monster Garage		American Chopper		Wild Science		Ultimate Discovery		Crime Night	
Sports Plus		Shell Houston Open Day1				Racworld		Lingerie Bowl				World Poker Tour Ep 14 C'ships				Inside the PGA	MCI Heritage Classic Highlights		Shell Houston Open Day1
NBN	Value Vision	Value Vision		Value Vision	Teledyaryo	Value Vision		GSIS Member's Hour		Network Forum		Teledyaryo		9th Tinig Awards				Ugnayang Pilipinsa	

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.



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LVN bows out proudly and gracefully

LVN PICTURES as a business corporation will continue to operate, even as its printing and processing services will definitely cease on June 30, 2005

This was announced in a press statement from the LVN management distributed on Wednesday.

Nenita L. Eraña, general manager, said continuance as a business corporation referred to LVN's obligations to stockholders. She did not elaborate.

LVN, the country's top movie post-production facility, was reported for sale early this week.

The statement recalled the studio's glory days: "In 1939, [Narcisa] Doña Sisang de Leon established LVN Pictures Inc. For more than two decades, it produced some of the country's finest motion pictures, including 'Ibong Adarna,' 'Anak Dalita,' 'Badjao,' 'Biyaya ng Lupa' and 'Higit sa Lahat.'"

For the last 40 years, it said, LVN had provided post-prod services to the local movie industry, for which it was internationally recognized for excellence.

"Unfortunately, the multi-faceted problems besetting the Philippine film industry ... have made it financially difficult to continue with operations, to the point of impossibility."

The management cited its employees, "who have served the company most loyally all these past years."

On an upbeat note, the statement concluded: "We hope [local cinema's] present problems ... will be overcome in time by the talent, resilience and responsibility of the Filipino filmmaker and audience."

Simply fabulous at 54

By Nini Valera

GLORIA Diaz: "I don't compete with younger women."

GLORIA DIAZ still keeps a pair of jeans that she's had since she was 24.

"I look at it now and I can't believe how small I used to be," said Gloria, who's now a fabulous 54.

"I'm probably 25 pounds overweight now," she told INQUIRER Entertainment in an exclusive interview. "But I think older women should be heavier than when they were younger.

The weight gain was her own doing, she admitted. "Food just tastes so much better now.

I love eating things like osso buco or paella with all the *sahug*. And I always have dessert."

Tennis is Gloria's main exercise. She plays regularly for about two hours, starting at 5:30 a.m.

"After tennis, I am so tired, I don't go

FABULOUS/ A2-2

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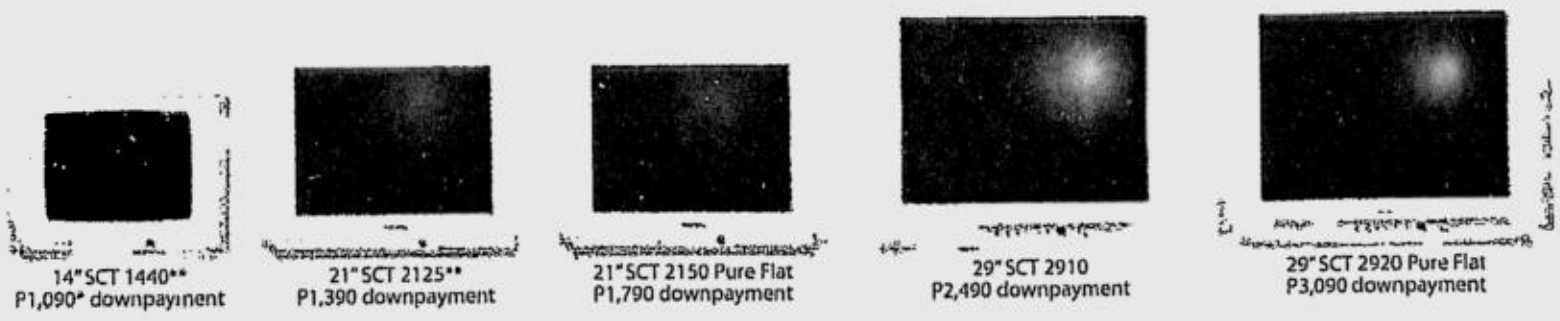

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'Expect the unexpected'

TAKE FIVE

GEORGE Lucas Discusses the "Star Wars" saga and the making of "Revenge of the Sith."

You're nearly finished with the last movie in the "Star Wars" saga. How are you feeling these days?

It's nice to know that it will all be completed. You know that feeling when you're in the middle of a project? You're always worried that something's going to go wrong, or that you're never going to get it finished? That's the way I've felt for about 20 years now, so it's really great to have all of the episodes complete, and to have that entire story told in a way that I'm very happy about.

Star Wars is set "a long time ago in a galaxy far, far away." Have you been motivated by real world history?

The underlying themes in "Star Wars" come from mythology, and if you look through the history of world mythology, you see that there are certain ideas and concepts that keep recurring. Partly, that's because myths do incorporate some historical elements and history seems always to repeat itself.

What is a Sith?

The Sith are people who are very self-centered and selfish. There used to be many Sith, but because they were corrupted by power and ambition, they killed each other off, so now there are only two—a master and an apprentice. Sith rely on their passion to get things done. They use their raw emotion, their hatred, their anger, their bitterness—which is the dark side of the Force. The Force is what binds the galaxy together, and it has a good side and a bad side. The Sith learned how to manipulate both sides of the Force, and then they fell into the trap of being corrupted by the dark side.

When you were writing the script to the first "Star Wars" movie, did you have any idea you were writing something that would be so successful?

I was excited about it and very proud of it, but I never imagined that it would be successful—let alone turn into the phenomenon that it became.

Is this the last theatrical "Star Wars" movie?

This is the last of the Star Wars movies. At the end of the Return of the Jedi, the Republic is restored, and Darth Vader is redeemed. It took a very long time, but Anakin finally fulfills the prophecy that he will destroy the Sith and bring balance to the Force. To me, there are no more stories to tell after that.

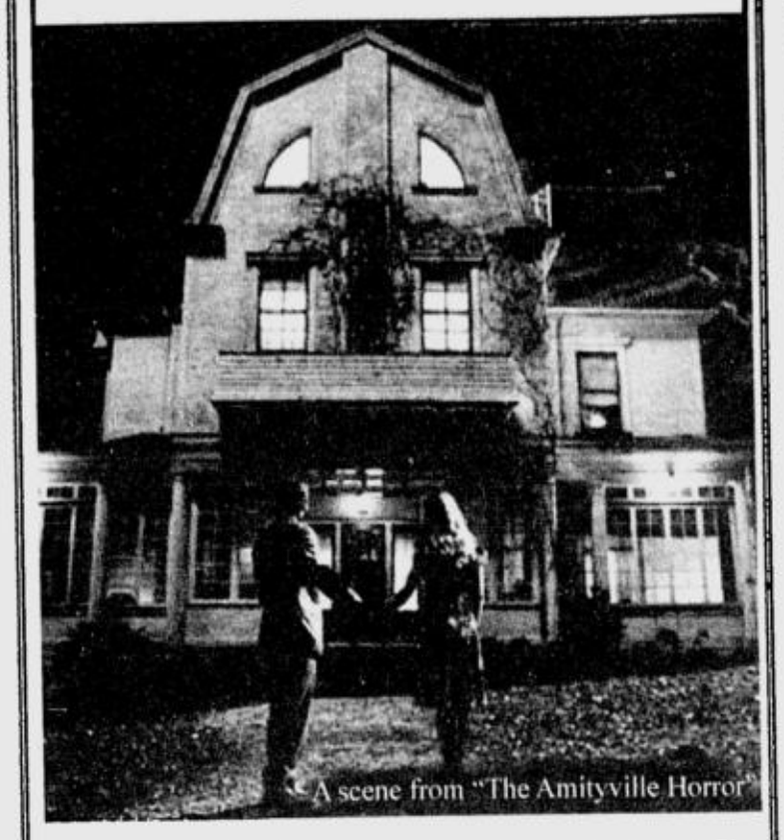
What will you do next?

I hope I'll be taking a long vacation!

"Star Wars Episode III: Revenge of the Sith" opens nationwide on May 19.

Weekend Box Office (April 15 - 17, 2005)

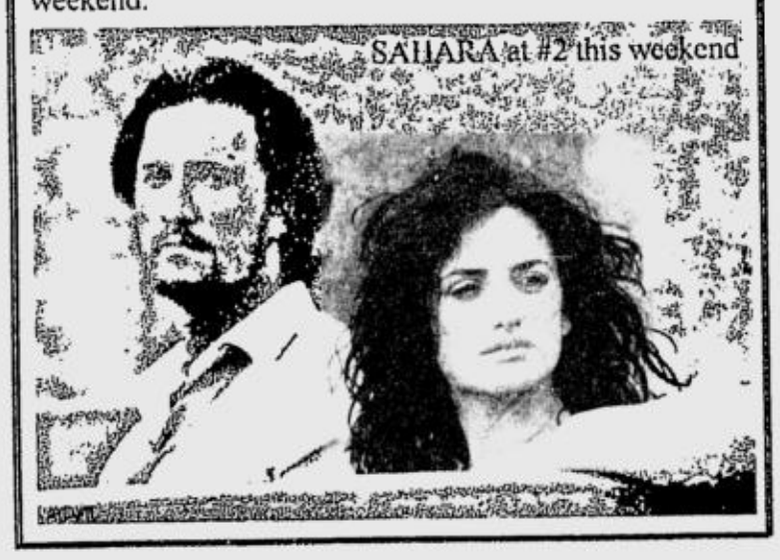
by Gitesh Pandya


A scene from "The Amityville Horror"

THIS WEEKEND. The much talked- about horror film ***The Amityville Horror,*** easily led the field with a solid bow of $ 23.5m from 3,323 theaters for a strong $7,012 average. Directed by *Andrew Douglas,* the film offered moviegoers a new telling of the 1979 classic about a couple that moves into a haunted house where grisly murders took place. The film is based on a true story. The *Ryan Reynolds* (Blade 3) starrer should become a very profitable title for MGM, the company now in the process of being bought by Sony.

Last week's #1 movie SAHARA dropped only 28% in its second weekend. Paramount's big budgeted adventure ***Sahara*** grossed $13.1M, pushing the ten-day tally to $36.4M. Produced for over $120M, the PG-13 flick should find its way to around $100M domestically. 'Sahara' also has strong openings at #1 in the UK, Australia and the Philippines.

Still going strong in its third week, Miramax's comic based action pic ***Sin City*** grossed $6.7M in its third weekend, lifting the cume to $61.3M and placed at #4 this weekend.


SAHARA at #2 this weekend

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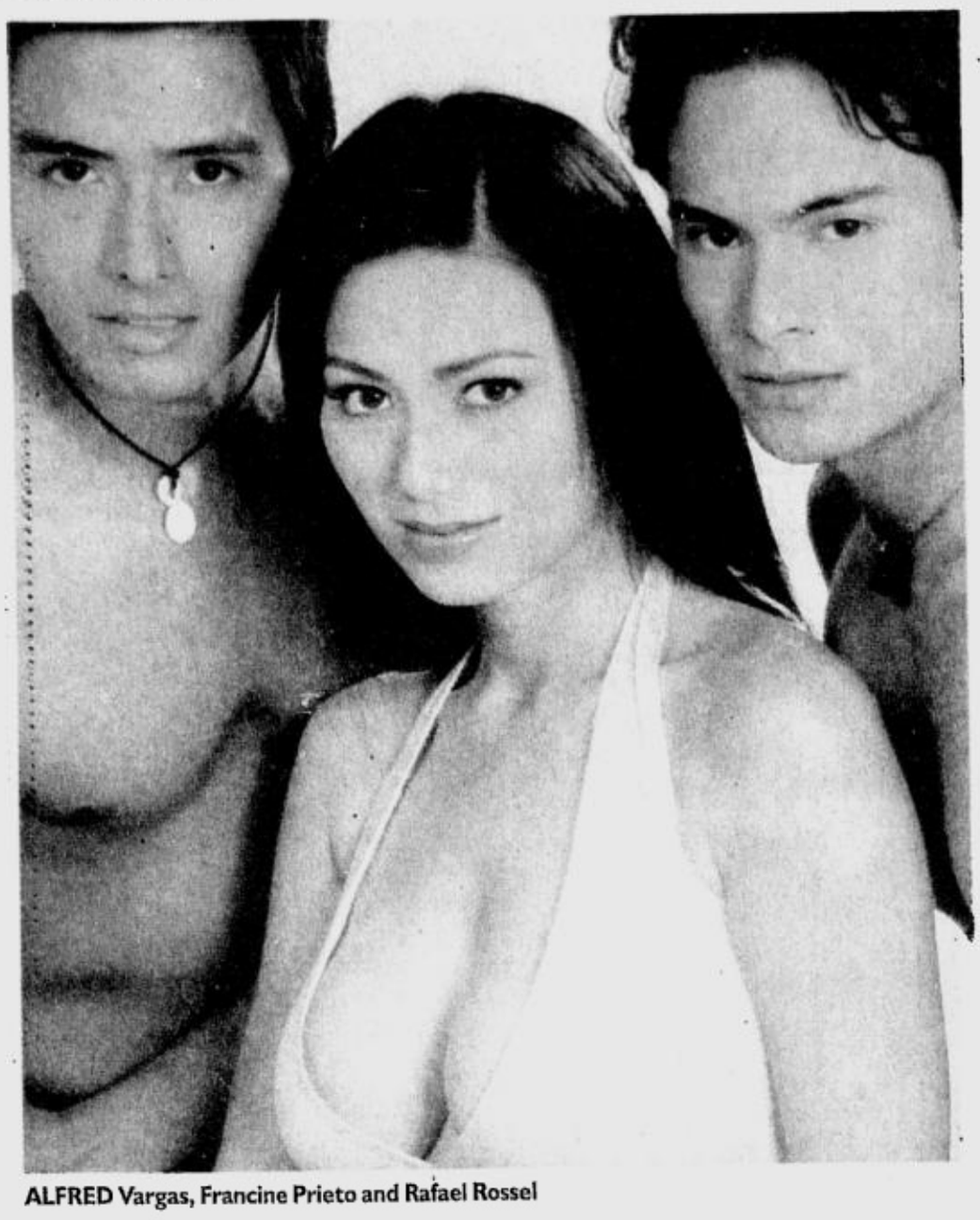

ALFRED Vargas, Francine Prieto and Rafael Rossel

Jeturian's journey to a bikini open

By Bayani San Diego Jr.
Contributor

FILMMAKER Jeffrey Jeturian recalls his "humble beginning" as a script continuity person on the Sharon Cuneta-Gabby Concepcion movie, "Sa Hirap at Ginhawa" (1984).

He was standing beside director Leroy Salvador, keenly aware that his boss, famous for a fiery temper, could erupt any minute.

"Then he asked a question that floored me: Was Sharon holding the bag with her right hand or left?"

The actress was about to say, "Left," but since Jeturian answered, "Right," she stopped herself.

"I was so grateful to Sharon for that," says Jeturian. "She was so kind. Direk Leroy could be such a taskmaster."

Perfect priming

That was his training: "Direk would ask if the tear fell from the right or left eye. Did a character chew his food before or after delivering a line?"

Thus Jeturian believes his work as production assistant, script continuity person and, later, script supervisor ... and then production designer and art director more than adequately primed him for directing.

It was stressful, he says, but it was all worth it. "I genuinely loved movies. I learned a lot from the directors I worked with (also including Marilou Diaz-Abaya and Chito Roño). I rose from the ranks."

Jeturian vividly recalls his momentous "first time" at the movies.

"My *yaya* brought me to Globe Theater, beside Life Theater in Quiapo, when I was five years old. The Tagalog movie 'Dedicated to You' was showing. It was very dark. Suddenly this huge, angelic face lit up the screen. It was Susan Roces."

The kid was smitten.

In 1975, another turning point: "I was in high school, and I watched Lino Brocka's 'Maynila sa Kuko ng Liwanag.' I consider myself lucky because I grew up watching Brocka, Ishmael Bernal and Mike de Leon. After seeing 'Maynila,' I told myself, if movie have this power to move people, I would like to be a filmmaker someday.

Never hooked

He didn't jump into filmmaking, though. In the University of the Philippines Diliman, he enrolled in Architecture. But in his senior year, he panicked. "I decided to take a course related to my original love: Broadcast Communication."

"I got to watch films by Sajit Ray (of India), Akira Kurosawa (of Japan), and François Truffaut (of France)," he says. "That was when I realized there were different ways of telling a story on film. "Not just the Hollywood way. There is so much poetry in those foreign films, I never got hooked on Hollywood."

In his own filmography, he endeavors to remain true to his vision: "To craft films that are simple, but which touch and move viewers."

He dissects his own directorial style: "I put my heart and soul into every project. This is why I can do only one movie a year. I need to absorb the material, and that takes time."

Film is a demanding muse, he admits. "It can be exhausting—physically, mentally, emotionally."

His debut project, "Sana Pag-Ibig Na," was the poignant story of a young man's belated appreciation of his father. "It is very easy to make people cry," Jeturian notes. "*Pero 'yong kurot sa puso* (but pinching the heart) is more difficult."

"Pila Balde" was an unflinching look at the sexual politics and power dynamics among residents in a government housing project. "It was about young people who became the victims of life's harsh realities."

In "Tuhog," he took the satirical path and lambasted the movie industry—its excesses and exploitative nature. He was told industry insiders might get offended. "But they got it," he says. "They were laughing at the right places."

> This award-winning filmmaker has another movie showing soon that raises the industry's hopes

Seiko Films producer Robbie Tan became such a big fan, that Jeturian soon made "Bridal Shower" for Seiko Films, "an examination of the sensibilities and hypocrisies of upper-middle class women." From there he plunged into the rustic reverie that is Bing Lao's "Minsan Pa"—shot in Cebu and in eloquent Cebuano.

"I didn't speak a word of the dialect," Jeturian says, "but I wanted to do it."

Arduous shoot

Once again, it was an arduous shoot because it involved visiting "the world of a tourist guide." He explains: "That entailed shooting the entire topography—the sea, the mountains. We had a lot of aerial shots."

The movie recently topped the selections for the Young Critics Circle and Enpress' Golden Screen awards recently. It will be sent to the Tokyo International Film Festival this October.

Now Jeturian's latest is eagerly awaited in the local theater circuit. Reuniting with the same team behind "Bridal Shower"—Seiko Films and writer Chris Martinez—he has made "Bikini Open."

"From an ordinary story about the dreams of aspirants in a bikini contest, it evolves into a critique on media responsibility," he volunteers. "How public affairs programs are becoming tools for entertainment rather than information, and just how much of reality television is real."

Once again, Jeturian dares viewers to go on a journey of discovery with him in "Bikini Open," which will open next month.

"My hope is that it will not only make people laugh," he says, "but that it will also encourage them to think and examine their own stand on pressing issues."

Gloria Diaz, fabulous at 54

From page A2-1

'Being in the movies is a privilege, not a right ... and this is where I want to be'

to the gym anymore," she said. "I am so *tamad*. But I'm going back to the gym."

The former Miss Universe did not plan on an acting career. But after doing a couple of films, she discovered that she loved it: "It's like going on a picnic," she said.

Thus began one of the longest-running movie careers after she was cast in director Celso Ad Castillo's "Ang Pinakamagandang Hayop Sa Balat ng Lupa" in 1974.

After about 150 lead roles in the '70s and '80s, Gloria has remained on top of the heap. She stopped counting the number of movies she has done after she began tackling second lead roles.

Less pressure

"I enjoy doing second leads [better] than being the star of a movie," she confided. "When you make a movie as its star, and the movie doesn't make money, you're under pressure. But as second lead, there's no pressure. You're allowed to do what you want with your character. (Maybe it's my way of rationalizing it.) But the director is no longer as focused on you as ... when you're the star."

She continued: "The second best part about doing second leads is you don't have kissing scenes anymore. Kissing scenes are kind of traumatic for me. It's got nothing to do with acting. You just have to be willing."

No one ever imagined the glorious Gloria to be squeamish about kissing. After all, she was the ultimate bold star of the big screen before the term was invented.

Shifting gears, she went on to do comedy, transforming herself into a sexy icon in the tradition of Goldie Hawn in movies like "Sa Totoo Lang," and the "Andres de Saya" series, in which she starred with her then lover, the late Vic Vargas.

Gloria has since appeared, too, as mainstay in TV sitcoms.

Playing second lead to younger stars in these programs as well, she showed a comic dimension of herself and gained the confidence of an actress which, she claimed, she never had when she was doing dramas.

"On TV, you get *hasang-hasa*, and that counts a lot for your self confidence," she said. If you're sure of yourself, one, two seconds or a split second is all you need to get the timing right. Otherwise, you fall flat on your face."

She looks at Dolphy, the late Eddie San Jose, Vic Sotto, and even Willie Revillame as gods of comedy.

"If you notice, they're all poker face," she said. "More than drama, comedy is harder to do, especially since we don't have great scripts and we have to improvise a lot. Given a choice, I'd do comedy."

In director Cholo Laurel's "Nasaan Ka Man," Gloria has the best of both worlds. The movie showcases her dramatic talent, and she also has comic moments with co-star Hilda Koronel. Like Hilda, Gloria is one of the few local actresses who have endured in a business that adore youth.

How does Gloria account for her staying power?

"I'm still around because I like doing what I do," she explained. "In my mind, the movie I'm doing now is always my last movie. I'm never in a bad mood on the set—maybe only once or twice. Being in the movies is a privilege, not a right. This is what I always tell my children, nephews and nieces who want to be in the business. It's also about attitude. If you've been in the movies as long as I have, you'd know what it should be like to remain here. You can't have moods when you're in front of the public. This is where I want to be. My personal life must not affect my work."

About six months ago, when her 88-year-old mother, Theresa, died, Gloria was doing the finals of "Star Circle Quest." She was also taping for the show at 3 a.m. when she learned that her youngest sister Rio was slipping away.

Compartmentalize

"I still had to work," she recounted, "[though] I couldn't be as funny as I used to be. It's really all about attitude. I can't not shoot because my baby sister is dying. You have to compartmentalize your life."

Gloria entered the movies five years after she was crowned Miss Universe in 1969, when Philippine movies was just entering its glorious stage.

"My practice arena has always been actual filming itself," said Gloria. "Unlike today, when newcomers go to acting workshops and get all sorts of help.

Gloria has also been spared from intrigues and intriguing entanglements with her leading men.

"Erap, for example, was my leading man in several movies," she related. "But I was his unreachable friend. I was his type of girl, but I never made *patol*. Erap was happy to be my friend."

At 36, Gloria married longtime friend Bong Daza. They had two children, Isabel, now 17, and Ava, 14. Their marriage ended in separation, but they have remained friends.

Since about eight years ago, Gloria has been dating banker Mike de Jesus, whom she described as a nice, calm person.

Mr. Almost Perfect

"With him, I'm always right," she said, laughing. "But he's not a pushover. He allows me to do anything, and anything I want is good. He's very low key. He's not impressed with *artistas*, although he likes to talk to them and find out what makes them tick. He's never been married. Why would I go out with a married man? I already have so much baggage. Mike is almost perfect."

It wasn't hard for Gloria to begin aging.

"I'm 54, but I'm so confused with my age," she explained. "I don't feel it. I only feel my age when I see myself on the camera, like my skin is loser and not as tight [as when I was younger], and when I gain weight easily. The first signs that I'm aging are the freckles on my face. I see them growing bigger. I don't really see wrinkles. But I have a few strands of white hair. I think it's too late for me to go for beauty procedures now, but I'm not against them."

Best of all, she said, "I don't compete with younger people. For me, aging [well] is the acceptance of it."

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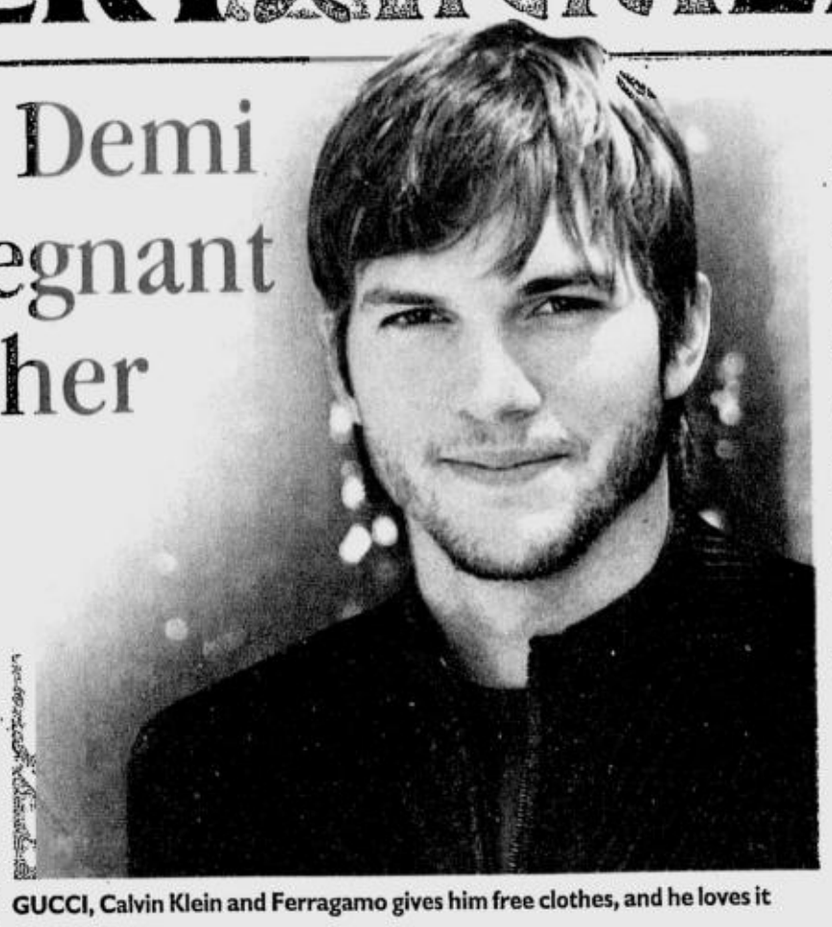
I repeat, Demi is not pregnant —Kutcher



GUCCI, Calvin Klein and Ferragamo gives him free clothes, and he loves it

'I've revealed every dirty, dark secret in my life, so it's not like anyone's going to dig up anything new'

LOS ANGELES—"I've said that **Demi (Moore)** is not pregnant like 20 times, and people just don't want to believe me."

So what would they name their baby, I asked **Ashton Kutcher**. Just kidding. I did not interrupt the man in Demi's life, post-**Bruce Willis** (but the three—Ashton, Bruce and Demi—reportedly get along fine).

The actor, who was reacting to a reporter's statement that he must be tired of reading about Demi's rumored pregnancy, actually continued talking to reporters: "I don't know what else I can say. I don't know any other way to say it. I feel like what the President must experience when people feel that they deserve to know. Like they have a right to know what I'm doing as if I'm someone in public office. I truly don't understand it."

Ashton, truly a "fashion whore" (his words—more about this later) in a Gucci pinstriped suit, Marc Jacobs pullover and Nikes (and a beard), added, "It's going to become evident (if she is pregnant). But the truth of the matter is, even if she is, it's nobody's business."

No tabloids

I did ask Ashton if he and Demi, who is 15 years his senior, check out the tabloids just for the heck of it.

"No," came the quick reply from the guy who swept cereal dust at the General Mills factory to finance his biochemical engineering college education. "We don't buy the tabloids. They're not allowed in our house. We don't have them at all. We just completely don't look because I don't want to pay into or support the system that makes our lives difficult to live."

Still on the media scrutiny, he declared, "I've revealed every dirty, dark secret that has existed in my life, so it's not like anyone's going to dig anything up or come up with anything. I think it (media scrutiny) just encourages me to be a better person, because you know that people are watching."

Of course, the couple have not turned deathly serious on us. Recently, they appeared on "Saturday Night Live" and made fun of their age difference. In a skit, Ashton fished a pair of false teeth from Demi's mouth after a kiss. The star of the upcoming "A Lot Like Love," complimented for his and Demi's ability to spoof their May-December romance, explained how the skit came about.

Pranks

The farm-boy-from-Iowa-who-did-good recounted: "Before I did the show, Demi was driving in the car with her daughters, and we were talking about how I'd like to come up with five or ten sketches. I asked them for ideas. And actually, Demi's youngest daughter, Tallulah, came up with the idea. And we thought it was really funny. At first, I didn't know whether Demi wanted to do it or not, but ultimately she thought it was great."

The host of MTV's "Punk'd," in which he plays pranks before his young Hollywood pals before a hidden camera, said, "You have to be able to make fun of yourself before other people can make fun of you. Or while they're making fun of you. If you can't make fun of yourself, then you're just be a stick in the mud, and I don't want to spend any time with you. When we went to 'Saturday Night Live' to discuss ideas, they asked me if there was anything I didn't want to do. I said no because nothing is sacred in comedy."

Since he was promoting "A Lot Like Love" (a romantic comedy with Amanda Peet), the 27-year-old who was once linked to actress Brittany Murphy was asked the inevitable question tied in to the movie—what looks like a lot of love to him?

The actor who got his first acting break as a regular on Fox's "That '70s Show" looked serious as he answered the question. But since he is the host of a prank show, sometimes you never know if he was pulling one on us. Because his reply went like this: "To me, love is a perfect unison between two people. It's like when somebody becomes your little finger. If you burn your little finger on the stove, you don't get mad at your little finger because you're truly one, you have that true oneness, which is just a cycle of giving and receiving that creates a perfect circle. So the other person literally becomes part of you and you no longer recognize or realize the separation that is the illusion that we have two different bodies, that we're not the same."

Why was I suddenly reminded of Imelda Marcos expounding on love and humanity and the universe with that answer?

Finally, about the "fashion whore" business. Ashton was a waiter at an Iowa City restaurant until he joined a modeling contest that launched a career posing for Calvin Klein and strutting on Paris and Milan runways. He was asked if he's really into fashion.

Overflowing closets

"Yes, I'm a bit of a fashion whore," the 6'3" tall Ashton admitted with a smile. "My closet is like completely overflowing. Demi and I have like seven rolling racks of clothes in our bedroom. So we have to move them to get to bed at night (laughter). I really enjoy and appreciate clothes. I think it's something in the US that's pretty under-appreciated. I learned a lot just standing there, as a fitting model for Tom Ford. I learned about the cut of a suit and all that."

It was refreshing to hear an actor admitting freely that he loved dressing. Ashton added with a laugh, "I get a lot of clothes for free, so that's like a really good thing. I don't know if I would be as much into fashion if I didn't get things for free. But when Gucci and Calvin Klein are sending you clothes and Ferragamo is sending you new suits every week, it's hard not to be into fashion. It's fun, yes!"

E-mail the columnist at rvnepales@aol.com

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US movie star **James Caan** has filed for divorce from his wife of nine and a half years, according to court papers obtained by AFP on Tuesday. The 65-year-old star of movies including "The Godfather" cited irreconcilable differences as the reason for the split, according to documents filed Monday in Los Angeles Superior Court.
AFP

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Two pote comi

TIME was when new Filipino movies opened in theaters every week. Some weeks, there were two local productions that started their run. On especially big playdates, movie fans could even take their pick of three new home-grown films. That's why, on its best years, the local movie industry could chalk up as many as 200 movies produced annually.

Alas, those were the golden days of yore. For the past decade, Filipino movies have been languishing at the box office as a result of competition from Hollywood blockbusters, rampant film piracy, and movie fans having gotten bored with trite formula films, referred to in the trade as quickies and sleazies.

All the more reason, then, for us to give greater importance to the few Filipino films that are still being made, despite the current hard times. If they turn out to be quality productions with something significant to say, we should go out of our way to patronize them, to give the Filipino movie industry a much-needed shot in the arm.

Up next on local movie screens is the **Sandara Park-Hero Angeles** starrer, "Can This Be Love," The teen flick is a gamble on Star Cinema's part, because it's the young pair's first full-length co-starrer on the big screen. But we expect the gamble to pay off at the box office, because the Sandara-Hero tandem did well in the anthology film they co-starred in recently with other young loveteams.

The big question now is, will their new film also turn out to be a good movie? With **Joey Reyes** writing and directing, there's a fair chance that it will—and that's all to the good.

Next month, a new film by the similarly well-regarded **Jeffrey Jeturian** will hit the big screen. The Seiko Films sex comedy, "Bikini Open," follows up on the success of the first Seiko-Jeturian production, "Bridal Shower."

"Bikini Open" fields a strong stellar cast of uninhibited young talents—**Francine Prieto, Diana Zubiri, Rafael Rosell, Alfred Vargas, JE Sison, Nina Ricci Alagao**, etc.—so, a lot of daring and baring is assured. But, with Jeturian at the helm, we can also bet that the young stars will also do their darndest to come up with interesting performances.

The new Seiko production underscores the key shift that the movie studio has taken these past few years, from the graphic sexuality of "Patikim ng Piña" to a more sophisticated depiction of sensuality. Since cheap sex flicks no longer click with local moviegoers, even the inveterate voyeurs among them, Seiko's move is definitely a wise one.

Aside from teen flicks and sexy movies, the local movie industry has lined up other film types, mostly dramas and comedies, to regale viewers with this year. Let's try to watch as many of them as possible if they deserve our patronage, to keep local movies from going under.

Some of our film people are doing their best to save the industry; we also have our part to play in this crucial effort. Local movies have come up with too many masterworks to be given up for lost.

Movies on TV

ON HBO, April 22 at 9 a.m., "Miss Lettie and Me." 10:35 a.m., "Deliver Us from Eva." 1:10 a.m., "City by the Sea."

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX
6th floor Shangri-la Plaza EDSA corner Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City
Telephone: 633.2227 / 633785 (loc. 171)
1 (DOLBY) THE INTERPRETER PG13
2 (DOLBY) GUESS WHO PG13
3 (DOLBY) WEDDING DATE PG13
4 (DOLBY) SPONGEBOB - GP; SAHARA - PG13
PREMIERE
(DOLBY) RING OF THE NIBELUNGS PG13

Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216
1 SAHARA
2 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
3 THE INTERPRETER
4 GUESS WHO

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto tel 733.4238
1 (DOLBY) RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED
5 RESERVED

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 PARAISO
2 ONG BAK
3 THE JACKET

starmall Movies www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 PARAISO
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) SAHARA
5 OK KA PARE KO

METROPOLIS star www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Alabang) tel 850.4285
1 PARAISO
2 SAHARA
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED
5 (DOLBY) RING OF NIBELUNG
6 THE JACKET

starmall Movies www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Las Pinas) tel (047) 237.7007
1 (DOLBY) GYMKWANDO
2 RESERVED

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 (DDS) WEDDING DATE
2 (SDDS) SAHARA
3 (DTS) THE INTERPRETER
4 (GOLD DTS) GUESS WHO
5 (GOLD DOLBY) RING OF NIBELUNG
6 (GOLD SDDS) PACIFIER
7 (GOLD DOLBY) THE INTERPRETER
8 (DOLBY) THE SPONGEBOB
9 (DOLBY) SAMARA (RING - 2)
10 THE JACKET

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WEDDING DATE
SAHARA
SAMARA RING 2
FINDING NEVERLAND
THE PACIFIER

ALI MALL CINEMAS
1 THE INTERPRETER
2 WEDDING DATE
3 GUESS WHO
4 OK KA. PARE KO
5 SAHARA

MARKET! MARKET! Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 SHAOLIN VS' EVILDEAD
2 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
3 PARAISO
4 RESERVED

Universal (Manila) tel 733.2470
1 RING OF NIBELUNG

Jade Cinema (Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 (DOLBY EX) BOGGY MAN
2 ONG BAK
3 (DTS EX) BE COOL
4 SPONGEBOB

Cine Nepo (Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121
1 BOGGY MAN
2 ONG BAK
3 (DOLBY) BE COOL
4 (DTS) SPONGEBOB

Cine Nepo (Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489
1 CLOSER
2 HOSTAGE
3 (DOLBY) CURSED
4 (DTS) BIRI

Centre Plaza Cinema (Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 HOSTAGE
2 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72
1 (DOLBY) WEDDING DATE
2 (DOLBY) INTERPRETER
3 (DOLBY) GUESS WHO
4 (DOLBY) THE JACKET

CINEMA 2000 Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 ONG BAK
2 (DTS) PACIFIER
3 (DOLBY) HIDE AND SEEK
4 ALONE IN THE DARK

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall (Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146
1 ONG BAK
2 (DOLBY) PACIFIER
3 (DTS) HIDE AND SEEK
4 ALONE IN THE DARK

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix (Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 CLOSER
2 CURSED
3 (DOLBY) CONFIDENCE

Cinema 2000 Metrotown (Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 MISS CONGENIALITY
2 HOSTAGE
3 (DOLBY) PACIFIER
4 (DTS) CONFIDENCE

Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 ONG BAK
2 SAMARA (RING - 2)
3 (DOLBY) HIDE AND SEEK

Lianas Cinema (Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) GYMKWANDO
2 PARAISO
3 ALIPIN
4 (DTS) BAWAT HAKBANG PANGANIB

Lianas MovieCity (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) PACIFIER
2 ALONE IN THE DARK
3 (DTS) ONG BAK
4 GRO
5 HIDE AND SEEK

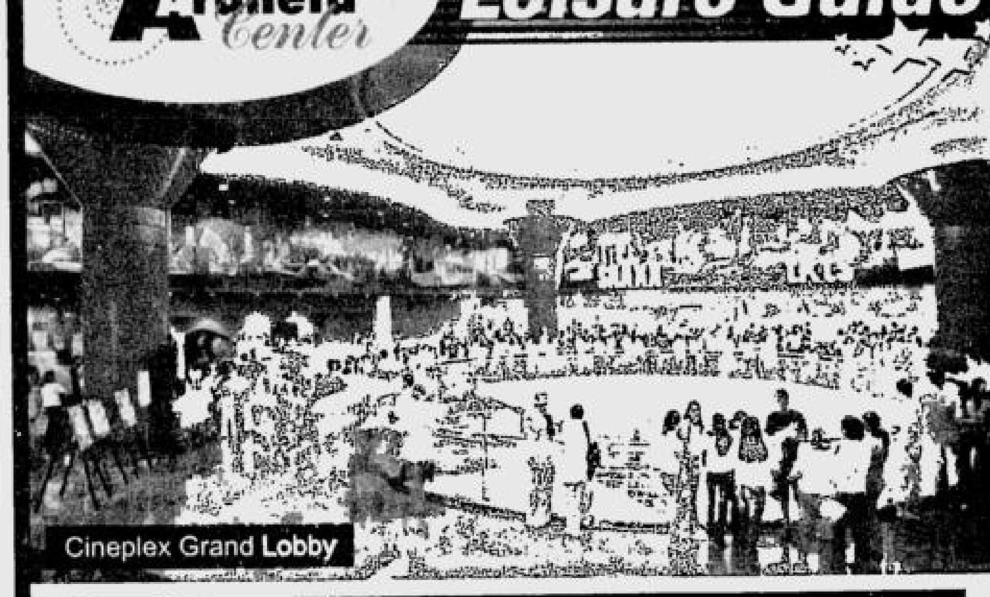
Mega Center Mall (Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283
1 CLOSER
2 MISS CONGENIALITY
3 (DTS) HIDE AND SEEK
4 (DOLBY) MILLION DOLLAR BABY

Fiesta World Mall (Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 HOSTAGE
2 CLOSER
3 BE COOL
4 SAMARA (RING - 2)

Berma Cinema (Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 PARAISO
2 OK KA PARE KO

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

Araneta Center Leisure Guide



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CINEMA SCHEDULES

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GUESS WHO 12:30 / 2:45 / 5:00 / 7:15 / 9:30
THE JACKET 12:20 / 2:30 4:40 / 6:50 / 9:00
RING OF THE NIBELUNGS 12:00 / 2:55 / 5:50 / 8:50
WEDDING DATE 1:30 / 3:30 / 5:30 / 7:30 / 9:30
SAHARA 12:30 / 3:20 / 6:10 / 9:00
SAMARA RING 2 1:55 / 4:15 / 6:35 / 8:55
FINDING NEVERLAND 12:40 / 2:50 / 5:00 / 7:10 / 9:20
THE PACIFIER 1:55 / 4:15 / 6:35 / 8:55

ALI MALL CINEMAS
1 THE INTERPRETER 11:50 / 2:40 / 5:30 / 8:20
2 WEDDING DATE 12:30 / 2:30 / 4:30 / 6:30 / 8:30
3 GUESS WHO 11:20 / 1:35 / 3:50 / 6:05 / 8:20
4 OK KA, PARE KO 12:10 / 2:10 / 4:10 / 6:10 / 8:10
5 SAHARA 11:30 / 2:20 / 5:10 / 8:00
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ARANETA COLISEUM EVENTS
MARTIN NIEVERA & PATTI AUSTIN LIVE! *April 22 Friday, 8pm*
JA RULE LIVE! *April 23, Saturday, 8pm*
2005 PBA FIESTA CONFERENCE *Apr. 27* — *4 45pm Red Bull vs Sta Lucia / 7 35pm Talk n' Text vs Fedex*
MOSSIMO BIKINI SUMMIT 2005 *April 30, Saturday, 8pm*

CENTER EVENTS
SALE EVENTS — *Hush Puppies Get Into the Wave Promo ongoing until April 31 at Level 2 of Gateway Mall. Simply try on a pair of Wave Reflex shoes and get 15% off on any regularly priced Hush Puppies shoe.* / *CUMBIA Sale from April 15 to 30 at Upper Ground Floor of Gateway Mall.*
PERFORMANCES — *GUARANA, CHEDI and COOKY CHUA set to perform on April 22, 23 and 24 respectively at The Gateway Pavilion*

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n This Be Love"

ntial hits
ng up

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

On Cinemax, April 22 at 11:30 a.m., "Free Willy." 12:15 a.m., "Dark Waters." 3:45 a.m., "Torn Curtain."

Meeting on Applied Genetics

THE FLORA M. Pascasio M.D. Research Foundation, in cooperation with the Philippine Children's Medical Center, will sponsor its fifth Scientific Meeting on April 28, at the PCMC, Quezon Ave., QC.

The meeting will consist of a lecture on "New Insights in the Human Genome," and a gathering of geneticists and genetics lovers dubbed as "Gene Talk Time." The lecture, by **Dr. Bernadette Librada-Ramirez**, is open to all medical practitioners. Its particular focus is on the impact of the Human Genome Project on molecular medicine.

Attendance is free. Call Marie Garcia at 924-0836.

Good movies, bad reviews

AS PROMISED, here are samples of good movies that received bad reviews:

"Casablanca": "Hollywood often uses its best players, writers and directors for its epic phonies. In 'Casablanca,' **Humphrey Bogart's** humanitarian killer, who apparently was disillusioned at his mother's breast, has to say some silly things and to play God too often to be as believably tough as he was in his last eight pictures."—**Manny Farber**, New Republic.

"The Godfather, Part II": "It's a Frankenstein's monster stitched together from leftover parts. It moves in fits and starts, but has no mind of its own. Everything of any interest was thoroughly covered in the original film, but like many people who have nothing to say, "Part II" won't shut up!"—**Vincent Canby**, New York Times.

"Gone with the Wind": "This film will probably surge to success on the strength of its bestseller story, stars and sheer length. But none of that will ever make it a good film, any more than the Bearded Lady in a circus sideshow can ever be quite the same attraction as the pure satisfactory sawdust circle of the Big Tent itself."—**Basil Wright**, Spectator.

"Lawrence of Arabia": "A galumphing camelodrama! Indeed, the acting, dialogue and direction are so uniformly elephantine that one feels that the film can't have been directed in the usual sense. Instead, it seems to have been 'panavisualized,' compounded by such an unspeakably turgid score that it was a relief to hear now and then an eruptive camel-grunt."—**Manny Farber**, New Republic.

"Psycho": "One is confronted with a dilemma which can perhaps best be resolved by staying home. For this is third-rate **Alfred Hitchcock**, a Grand Guighol drama in which the customers hang around just for the tiny thrill at the end. I think this film is a reflection of a most unpleasant mind, a mean, sly, sadistic little mind. All in all, a nasty little film!"—**Dwight Macdonald**, Esquire. *(To be concluded)*

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GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

1 WEDDING DATE 11:10, 1:30, 3:50 6:10, 8:30, 10:50 PG-13
2 THE INTERPRETER 12:05, 2:55, 5:45 8:35, 11:10 PG-13
3 GUESS WHO? 12:35, 3:10, 5:45 8:20, 10:50 PG-13
4 THE JACKET 10:45, 1:15, 3:45 6:15, 8:45, 11:10

SHANG CINEPLEX

1 THE INTERPRETER MTRCB. PG-13 10:50, 1:40, 4:30, 7:20, 10:10
2 GUESS WHO MTRCB PG-13 11:30, 2:05, 4:40, 7:15, 9:50
3 WEDDING DATE MTRCB. PG-13 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50
4 SPONGEBOB (GP) 1.20, 3.20, 5.20
SAHARA (PG-13) 7:20, 10:00

PREMIERE THEATRE RING OF THE NIBELUNGS MTRCB: PG-13 12:40, 3:30, 6.20, 9:10
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SAHARA PG13 12:15,2:45,5:15,7:45,10:20	GUESS WHO PG13 12:50,3:10,5:30,7:50,10:15	RING OF THE NIBELUNGS PG13 12:15,2:45,5:15,7:45,10:20
WEDDING DATE PG13 12:00,2:00,4.00, 6:00,8:00,10:00	THE JACKET PG13 12:50,3:10,5:30,7:50,10:10	THE INTERPRETER PG13 12:15,2:45,5:15,7:45,10:30

star group of cinemas movie guide IN DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND

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3 Gamitan
4 Sahara
5 Ong Bak

METROPOLIS ALABANG star Tel. No. 850.42.85
1 Ong Bak
2 Kapitbahay
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2. RING OF THE NIBELUNGS 12.50 FS / 1:20 MF / 4.05 / 6:50 9:10 LFS / 9:40 LMF / 11:55 END
633-8878

sm megamall cinema 6
SAMARA: RING 2 11:50 FS / 12:20 MF / 2:40 / 5:00 7:20 / 9:10 LFS / 9:40 LMF / 11:30 END
633-1901

sm cebu cinema
CINEMA 1: HIDE AND SEEK 11:30 MF / 1:30 / 3:30 / 5:30 / 7:30 9:20 LFS / 9:30 LMF / 11:20 END
CINEMA 3: THE PACIFIER 11:00 MF / 12:45 / 2:30 / 4:15 / 6:00 7:45 / 9:20 LFS / 9:30 LMF / 11:05 END
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METRO MANILA

sm megamall
1 FINDING NEVERLAND
2 SAHARA
3 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
4 RESERVED
5 THE JACKET
6 SAMARA: RING 2
7 RESERVED
8 RESERVED
9 RESERVED
10 THE INTERPRETER
11 GUESS WHO
12 THE WEDDING DATE

sm city fairview
1 GUESS WHO
2 ONG BAK: THE THAI WARRIOR
3 THE WEDDING DATE
4 THE INTERPRETER
5 THE JACKET
6 SAHARA
7 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
8 SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS
9 SAMARA: RING 2
10 FINDING NEVERLAND
11 THE PACIFIER
12 OK KA PARE KO

sm city north edsa
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 SAHARA
4 THE WEDDING DATE
5 THE INTERPRETER
6 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
7 GUESS WHO
8 THE JACKET

sm city sta. mesa
1 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
2 GUESS WHO
3 THE INTERPRETER
4 RESERVED
5 RESERVED
6 OK KA PARE KO
7 SAMARA: RING 2
8 SAHARA
9 THE WEDDING DATE
10 THE JACKET

sm city southmall
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
4 THE INTERPRETER
5 OK KA PARE KO
6 THE EDDING DATE
7 THE JACKET
8 SAMARA: RING 2
9 SAHARA
10 GUESS WHO

sm city manila
1 SAHARA
2 THE INTERPRETER
3 THE PACIFIER
4 GUESS WHO
5 THE SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS
6 THE WEDDING DATE
7 OK KA PARE KO
8 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
9 SAMARA: RING 2
10 ONG BAK: THE THAI WARRIOR
11 THE JACKET
12 FINDING NEVERLAND

sm cinema tutuban
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

sm supercenter sucat
1 GUESS WHO
2 SAMARA: RING 2
3 SAHARA
4 THE WEDDING DATE

sm city bicutan
1 SAHARA
2 THE WEDDING DATE
3 GUESS WHO
4 SAMARA: RING 2

LUZON

sm city pampanga
1 MS. CONGENIALITY 2
2 THE WEDDING DATE
3 BE COOL
4 ONG BAK: THE THAI WARRIOR
5 SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS
6 THE PACIFIER

sm city baguio
1 MS. CONGENIALITY 2
2 CURSED
3 THE PACIFIER
4 CLOSER

sm city batangas
1 BE COOL
2 ALONE IN THE DARK
3 MS. CONGENIALITY 2
4 SHAOLIN v.s EVIL DEAD

sm city marilao
1 HIDE AND SEEK
2 CLOSER
3 THE WEDDING DATE
4 SAMARA: RING 2

sm city bacoor
1 THE WEDDING DATE
2 SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS
3 ONG BAK: THE THAI WARRIOR
4 SAMARA: RING 2
5 SAHARA
6 GUESS WHO
7 THE PACIFIER
8 OK KA PARE KO

sm city dasmariñas
1 SHAOLIN v.s EVIL DEAD
2 HIDE AND SEEK
3 SAMARA: RING 2
4 SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS

sm city lucena
1 CURSED
2 HIDE AND SEEK
3 CLOSER
4 MS. CONGENIALITY 2

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

sm city cebu
1 HIDE AND SEEK
2 RESERVED
3 THE PACIFIER
4 SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS
5 MILLION DOLLAR BABY
6 SAMARA: RING 2
7 MS. CONGENIALITY 2
8 SAHARA

sm city iloilo
1 SHAOLIN v.s EVIL DEAD
2 RESERVED
3 BE COOL
4 THE PACIFIER
5 BOOGEYMAN
6 MS. CONGENIALITY 2
7 RESERVED
8 SAMARA: RING 2

sm city davao
1 THE PACIFIER
2 SAHARA
3 MILLION DOLLAR BABY
4 HOSTAGE
5 SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS
6 HIDE AND SEEK

sm city cagayan de oro
1 MS. CONGENIALITY 2
2 THE PACIFIER
3 BE COOL
4 SAMARA: RING 2

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9. "Ows, stop kidding me anymore"

8. over-confident

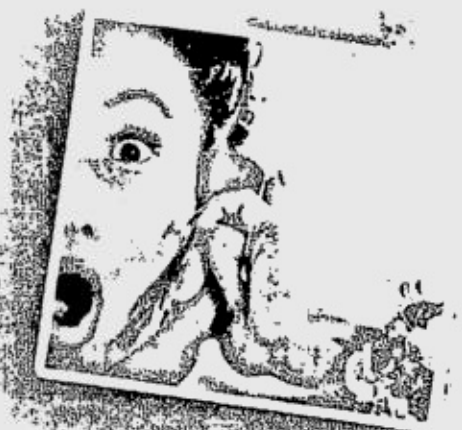
2. deadma lang

10 expressions of a new millionaire, what's yours'?

7. nakakalokah

3. heaven

4. "I can't believe it anymore"



5. shocked

6. tuwa to the max

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B1

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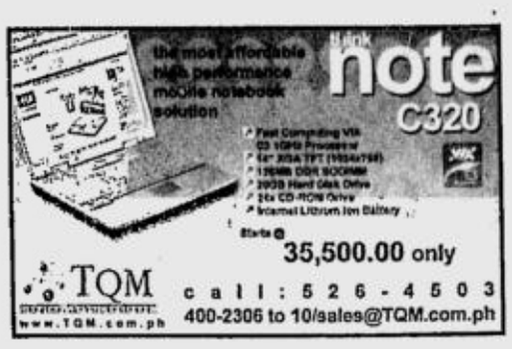
Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma



BSP allays fears of dollar shortage

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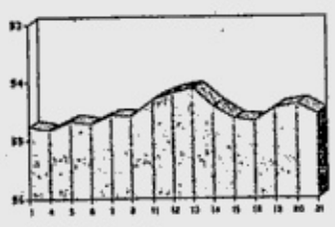

₱54.55 = $1
As of 5 p.m., April 21, 2005

¥106.97 = $1
As of 5 p.m., April 21, 2005

GOLD: $432.90-433.40
per ounce Hong Kong, April 21, 2005

STOCK MARKET

Shares end lower on profit-taking

SHARES ended lower yesterday, with blue chips leading the decline on profit-taking and Wall Street's losses overnight, traders said.

SHARES/ B3

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas has assured the public that the Philippines could cope with the skyrocketing cost of oil imports with its steady stream of foreign exchange inflows.

These are on top of some positive offsetting factor brought by the sharp appreciation of the peso against the US dollar over the past few months, which in turn was strengthening the local currency's purchasing power.

In an interview, BSP Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said strong inflows from overseas Filipino workers and the resurgence of foreign investments were cushioning the impact of rising oil prices.

"For every $1 change in the oil prices, there's an impact of about $120 million (each year) in terms of higher imports, given our consumption of 120 million barrels," Tetangco said.

"But the BOP (balance of payment) of course has many components and there can be improvements on some of the inflows, like in the case of OFW remittances, which have turned out to be better than expected this year, and also with portfolio inflows," he explained.

The International Monetary Fund itself has warned that oil prices may remain high in the forseeable future and likely hover between $39 and $56 a barrel. It did not consider as far-fetched Goldman Sach's projection that it could even spike to as high as $100 a barrel.

"We are currently revising the BOP to take into account recent developments," Tetangco said.

The BSP has already scaled down its 2005 BOP surplus target earlier to $464 million from $570 million due to some deferred investments from the manufacturing sector.

"The inflows from OFWs have a big impact and also the portfolio investments, that's why our BOP is still in a surplus despite rising oil prices," Tetangco said.

Based on the BSP's latest data, the country's BOP yielded a surplus of $98 million in March, bringing the first-quarter windfall to $783 million, on strong inflows from exports, portfolio investments and migrant remittances.

Tetangco did not say whether the country would still be able to chalk up a BOP surplus for the rest of the year.

OFW dollar inflows rose by 18.5 percent to $720 million in February from a year ago even if fresh migration restrictions in some host countries had slowed down offshore deployment. This brought the two-month OFW inflows to $1.4 billion or 17.2 percent better than the level in the same period last year.

On the other hand, net inflows of "hot money" or foreign portfolio investments surged to $1.52 billion in the first quarter, about 17 times better than the $91.5 million a year ago, due to much-improved investor appetite for local stocks.

Aside from these improvements on the dollar supply side, Tetangco said there were signs oil prices were easing in the world market.

The government's medium-term Philippine development plan had assumed much lower global oil prices—$32.7 a barrel for this year and $29.2 for 2006—as against current prices above $50.

But in case oil prices would indeed shoot up to unprecedented levels, Tetangco expressed confidence that the government would be able to intervene appropriately.

"I think you'll have to take other measures and also more aggressive conservation measures, which the government is doing now together with the private sector. So what will happen is that (local) demand will go down," he said.

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Gov't probes latest price hike of oil firms

By Abigail L. Ho

THE JOINT task force of the Departments of Justice and Energy ordered local oil firms to submit their financial statements to determine whether or not their latest 75-centavo-a-liter fuel price hike is reasonable.

The DOJ-DOE Task Force, however, admitted that RA 8479, or the Downstream Oil Industry Deregulation Act of 1998, did not give any specific criteria as to how a particular increase in prices could be described as unreasonable, Energy Undersecretary Peter Anthony Abaya said in an interview yesterday.

He said even the implementing rules and regulations of the law was unclear on the matter.

"Thus, the Task Force agreed to use (foreign exchange), world oil price movements and under-recoveries as parameters (to determine the reasonability of price hikes)," he said.

The Task Force yesterday convened to discuss how it would evaluate the last price increase that local oil firms implemented over the weekend.

Oil companies, except industry leader Petron Corp., hiked the prices of their gasoline, diesel and kerosene by 75 centavos a liter. Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp., Caltex Philippines Inc. and Total (Philippines) Corp. also increased the prices of their cooking gas by 75 centavos a kilogram.

They cited the still high prices of crude and finished products in the regional and world markets as the reason for the price hike.

But since global prices had already started to ease since the first week of the month, Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla ordered the oil firms last Monday to explain under oath why they still raised their prices despite this development.

He also asked them to explain why they failed to give advanced notice of the price increase to the DOE when Memorandum Circular No. 2001-05-002 explicitly stated that oil firms had to file with the DOE a notice of any price adjustment at least a day before implementation.

When none of the firms acknowledged that request, another letter was sent to them on Tuesday, still seeking an explanation, but this time pointing out a provision in the Oil Deregulation Law stating that non-compliance could mean imprisonment of up to two years and a fine of between P250,000 and P500,000.

This time, almost all oil firms submitted their notarized letter-explanations before the 5 p.m. deadline Wednesday.

Those that submitted sworn statements include Shell, Caltex, Total, City Oil Philippines Inc., Eastern Petroleum Corp., Filoil, Filpride Energy Corp., Flying V, Fortune Gas Corp., Jetti Supply Distribution, Inc., Liquigaz Philippines Inc., Nation Petroleum, Rephil Station Inc., Seaoil Petroleum Corp., Subic Bay Distribution Inc. and Unioil Petroleum Philippines Inc.

Abaya said the Task Force had yet to pass judgment on these explanations, saying that an evaluation, using the oil firms' yet-to-be-submitted financial reports, would still have to be done.

Under the law, the Task Force has 30 days to conduct a review, after which it will have to initiate whatever action is necessary, with respect to its findings.

UNDP forum looks into Smart mobile commerce

TWO world-firsts introduced by Smart Communications Inc. are among the success stories in mobile commerce that delegates will hear about at a UNDP-sponsored forum on entrepreneurship for the mass market.

Smart, the Philippines' leading wireless services provider, will show how it is reaching out to the C, D, E markets through innovative, affordable products, and services that also provide alternative sources of income, like Smart Load and Smart Padala.

The two-day forum ending today highlights the East-Asia sub-regional launch of the report by the UN Commission on the Private Sector and Development, titled "Unleashing Entrepreneurship—Making Business Work for the Poor." A key theme of the forum is marketing at the "bottom of the pyramid" (BOP), where four billion of the world's population who earn less than $1,500 a year and live on less than $2 a day belong.

Forum delegates from 13 countries will look at the best practices and lessons learned in the development of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and micro enterprises in East Asia. They will also learn about successful private sector initiatives at the BOP that have resulted in real improvements in the lives of the poor and could be replicated across the region.

"Smart Load enables us to bring mobile phone services to the BOP segments of the market and at the same time provide a lucrative source of livelihood for many Filipinos who are turning to micro-entrepreneurship for survival," said Public Affairs head Ramon Isberto, who will make the presentation at the forum at the Shangri-La Makati Hotel.

As of end-2004, there were about 700,000 Smart Load retailers nationwide, among them housewives, laid-off workers, students, office clerks and sari-sari store owners. The concept has been adopted in Indonesia and Thailand, and US telecommunication analysts have recommended it to operators in low-income segments even in developed countries.

In February 2004 Smart Load was adjudged Best Mobile Application or Service in the Consumer Market at the GSM Convention in Cannes.

Smart Padala is the first cash-remittance service via text, which primarily benefits overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) and their dependents. It sends money "at the speed of text" in a secure, confidential, and less costly manner, from Smart Padala centers abroad where senders deposit it, straight to the mobile phone of the beneficiary, who collects the cash at partner remittance centers here.

The launch pad for both Smart Load and Smart Padala is Smart Money, the world's first electronic cash card linked to a mobile phone. Smart Money, which can be used like a credit card and ATM card, was introduced in 2001, when Smart developed its own mobile commerce platform. It also won at the 2001 Cannes GSM Convention as Most Innovative Service for Customers.

Cebu Pacific, SIAEC sign agreement

CEBU Pacific (CEB) and SIA Engineering Company Limited (SIAEC), a unit of Singapore Airlines yesterday signed a joint venture agreement for the maintenance of CEB's new fleet of Airbus aircraft and its existing fleet of DC9s and B757s.

CEB president and CEO Lance Gokongwei and SIAEC chief executive officer William Tan signed the agreement.

The venture, Aviation Partnership (Phils.) Corp.(A+) will be owned 51 percent by SIA Engineering Ltd. and 49 percent by Cebu Pacific Air.

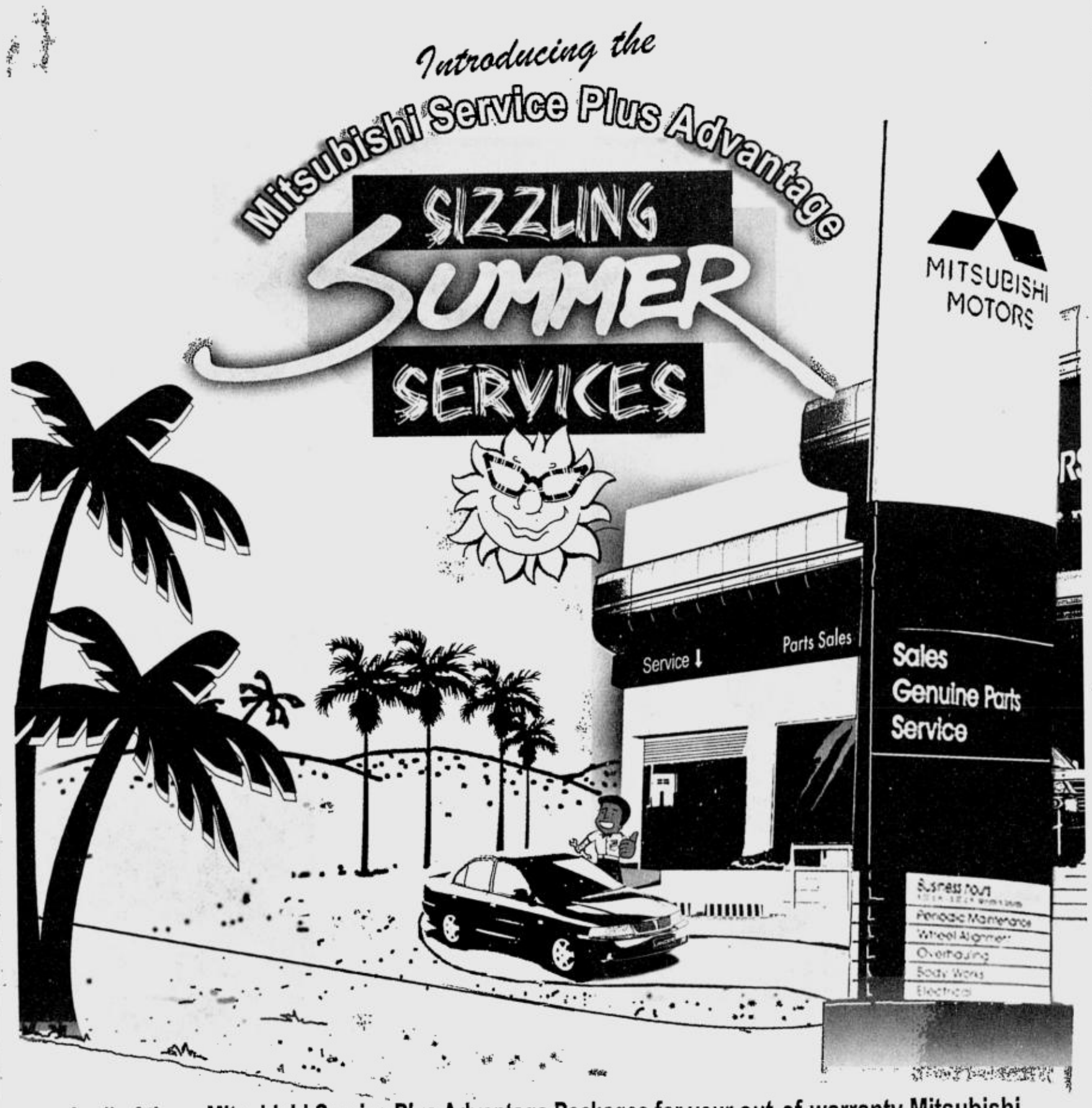
"Aviation Partnership (Phils.) Corp. (A+), our joint venture with SIAEC, further strengthens our confidence in our fleet of new Airbus aircraft arriving in May 2005. With SIAEC providing the total airframe support and GE providing total engine support, plus our local team—we have a world class group which will add significant merit to the Philippine aviation industry by increasing the efficiency of our operations," stated Gokongwei.

He added, "SIAEC's worldwide experience and support capabilities will certainly help us live by our mission to bring people together through an affordable and reliable mode of travel. This will also allow A+ to grow its business base to attract additional third party customers, which will add more employment opportunities to our country. In this way, we hope to do our part in uplifting tourism in the Philippines and strengthening our economy."

Tan said: "We are delighted that Cebu Pacific Air, a highly prolific and aggressive airline in the Asia-Pacific, is partnering us in our first foray into the Philippines. By capitalizing on each other's strengths and expertise, we will be able to add greater value to the aviation industry in the Philippines."

This is the third line and light maintenance joint venture, known as Aviation Partnership (Philippines) Corp., engaged by SIAEC outside of Singapore, besides Pan Asia Pacific Aviation Services in China and PT Jas Aero Engineering Services in Indonesia.

CEB bought 12 brand new A319s for delivery from September 2005 to early 2007 and is leasing two A320s which are due by the second quarter of this year.



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Kalibo, not Caticlan

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

IT looks like Kalibo, not Caticlan nor Carabao Island, will be the international gateway for the world-famous Boracay.

And Kalibo has to thank the national government's budget-deficit, no kidding, for making its airport the de facto choice.

According to Aklan Rep. Florencio Miraflores, because of the multibillion-peso costs needed to expand Caticlan or build an entirely new airport on Carabao Island, President Macapagal-Arroyo has agreed to a simple, straightforward, cost-efficient solution.

For only P38 million and landing lights that the Davao airport no longer needs, Kalibo can extend its runway to international length and have nighttime facilities for 24/7 operations as well.

The presidential loose change would be

COCKTALES/ B4

Shares end lower on profit-taking

From page B1

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index shed 13.03 points, or 0.7 percent, to 1,841.94. The bourse had risen 2 percent over the past two sessions, including Wednesday's 1.1 percent advance.

All market sectors finished lower. Decliners led gainers 59 to nine, while 47 stocks were unchanged.

"The rally over the past two days has not built up enough confidence in investors, since the advance was purely technical in nature. The market is still trying to find direction," said Westlink Global Equities chair Rommel Macapagal.

"Fund managers are now taking stock of what will happen next, especially with regard to US interest rates," he added. *AP*

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SAYS U.S. ADVISER

'Introduce competition to the public sector'

By Michelle V. Remo

A VISITING US political adviser has proposed that the Philippines "reinvent" its bureaucracy by running government agencies more like private corporations.

"Competition is the fundamental force that drives businesses to be better. One important thing the Philippines can do is to introduce competition to the public sector," David Osborne, a fellow of the Progressive Policy Institute, the think tank of the US Democratic Leadership Council.

Osborne, who served as a senior advisor to former US Vice President Albert Gore, said getting rid of too much bureaucracy and making government agencies customer-driven suit the current information age. By "customer-driven," he meant that government institutions should treat the public as clients, whom they owe quality service.

Running government institutions under a centralized bureaucracy and strict rules and regulations was a success for many countries during the industrial age, but that changing public behavior has made it obsolete, he said.

Osborne cited one way to improve the quality of governance—resort more to contracting some of its services to private entities, rather than handling all tasks. He said through contracting, the private company chosen to do a task would have to perform efficiently, lest the government can simply tap another contractor.

Globe ties up with Yuchengcos

By Clarissa S. Batino

GLOBE Telecom Inc. has tied up with Yuchengco's Malayan Insurance Co. to offer "affordable and accessible" cellular phone insurance to about 700,000 wireless postpaid subscribers of the country's second-largest mobile company.

For only P150 a month, a Globe postpaid customer could insure his mobile phone handset and his SIM card against theft, loss, or even damage under the program dubbed as Cell Protect.

Malayan vice president Antonio Rubin said the deal with Globe was cheaper by about 40 percent compared to the going premium rates for similar types of insurance.

Another insurance company is also offering insurance for mobile phone handsets but the subscriber would have to do his or her own transacting.

With Globe, the insurance bill is folded into the monthly dues. A disconnected subscriber would also lose his or her insurance privileges with Malayan.

Rubin said Malayan has no intentions of entering into a similar arrangement with Globe's competitors. The joint venture of Ayala Corp. and Singapore Telecom has the biggest base of postpaid customers as leading player Smart Communications Inc. has only about 300,000 postpaid subscribers.

Cell Protect covers the full amount of repairs for accidental damage minus 10 percent or P250, whichever is higher. For theft or loss, Malayan would pay the subscriber a fair market value of the phone minus 20 percent or P1,000, whichever is higher.

Globe postpaid customers could register via text. Rubin said the company would only cover phones five-years-old and below.

"Malayan has committed to us a turn around time of three working days for lost phones approved by the claims department. This, provided that the subscriber has submitted all the documents," said Justin Sales, senior marketing manager of Globe.

So far, he said a little over 200 customers of Globe have already registered with Cell Protect.

Rubin said that every 20,000 registration could increase Malayan's revenue by P100 million a year. Malayan said it writes about P4 billion in premiums a year.

The insurance could work best for subscribers using expensive or high-end models.

Covered subscribers who lose their phones would have to file a police report and notify the National Telecommunications Commission so it could block the 15-digit International Mobile Equipment Identity or IMEI number usually found underneath the removable battery.

Once an IMEI code is blocked, the handset is believed useless. But then, there are repair shops that could undo the blocking done by the NTC. The requirements, according to Malayan, should ensure that the company would only cover cases of genuine theft, loss or damage.

For its 36th National Marketing Conference, the Philippine Marketing Association lets you navigate towards Filipino Brand Excellence

DAY 1 : May 25, 2005
Session Chair: **Dr. Nick Fontanilla**
President, The Asia Pacific Center for Research

8:00 – 9:30 Registration/ Networking/ Morning Coffee

9:30 – 10:15 Opening Ceremonies
Keynote address: **Mr. Roberto De Ocampo**
President, Asian Institute of Management (AIM)

10:15- 11:15 Session One:
A Business Philosophy for Extreme Marketing: Pushing Your Limits in a Crisis Economy
A presentation on the business philosophies surrounding extreme marketing that have maximized marketing potentials in a challenging convergent environment aptly applied to the Asian Region as well as the local scenarios.

Speaker: **Mr. Bienvenido Policarpio**
Executive Vice President, Prudential Group of Companies, President, Dale Carnegie Philippines

11:15- 12:15 Session Two:
Customer Relationship Management: Building Technology to the Extreme

Speaker: **Mr. Mark Yambot**
Director for Corporate Affairs, Microsoft Philippines, Inc.

Lunch Break

1:30 – 1:45 Ice Breaker

1:45 – 2:45 Session Three:
Pain Makes Gains: Pharmaceutical Companies Going Beyond Pain
Proven local brand strategic applications in the pharmaceutical business that challenge global market leaders and players in creating ideal synergies for a convergent market.

Speaker: **Mr. Carlos "Do" Ejercito**
President, United Laboratories Group

2:45 – 3:45 Session Four:
The New Empire: Shaping the Future of High-Rise Condominiums
Guiding principles in braving the battle against big brothers in the real estate business despite the threatening and unstable socio-economic scenarios affecting business growth.

Speaker: **Mr. Luke Tan**
Director, Investor Relation, Megaworld

3:45 – 4:00 Break

4:00 – 5:00 Session Five:
Challenging Global Brands through Sports Marketing Events
Creative marketing executions that enliven the palette of consumers using convergent applications of events marketing thus bringing product promotion to extremely challenging standards.

Speaker: **Mr. Christophe Bezu**
Senior Vice President, Adidas-Salomon AG, Hong Kong

5:00 – 5:15 Recap by Session Chair

Day 2 : May 26, 2005
Session Chair: **Dr. Karen De Asis**
Marketing Director, La Salle Graduate School Marketing Consultant

8:00 – 9:00 Networking Coffee

9:00 – 10:00 Session Six:
Mega Formulas for Extreme Marketing from a Marketing Guru
A discussion on strategic principles of extreme marketing as presented by the world-renowned Hermawan Katajaya.

Speaker: **Mr. Hermawan Kartajaya**
President & Leading Service Officer, MarkPlus&Co.

10:00- 11:00 Session Seven:
The Telecommunications Industry Revealed: Telecommunications Convergence: Challenge to the Extreme!
Current trends and future strategic directions of the highly evolving telecommunications industry amidst the challenge of simultaneous product and market convergence.

Speaker: **To be announced**

11:00- 12:00 Session Eight:
The New Imperative in Today's Convergence in Marketing: Sustainable Growth
A closer look at the "must haves" in dealing with the challenges of convergence in marketing for businesses to thrive and achieve sustainable growth.

Speaker: **Mr. Gavin Coombes**
Vice President, Euro RSCG Asia Pacific

Lunch Break

1:00– 1:15 Ice Breaker 2

1:15 – 1:30 Agora Awards Launch / Other PMA Activities

1:30 – 2:30 Session Nine:
Mall Mania: Shop Until You Drop!
Revelations in the bullet-speed growth of the retail industry and the magnetic attraction of a converging business to a market mix of unique styles but common interests.

Speaker: **Ms. Grace Magno**
Head of Marketing, Araneta Group of Companies

2:30- 3:30 Session Ten:
New Rules in Market Leadership: Success Stories in Non-traditional Bank Marketing
Non-traditional rules applied to traditionally common practices that have created raves in the banking sector.

Speaker: **Mr. Tomas Victor Mendoza**
SAVP, Banco de Oro Universal Bank

3:30 – 3:45 Break

3:45 – 4:30 Session Eleven:
Creativity on the Edge: Media & Marketing Convergence
Strategic partnering innovations that unify media creativity and marketing excellence gearing to meet the challenge of convergence.

Speaker: **Mr. Nicanor Gabunada**
Senior Vice President for Integrated Sales & Marketing
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Company

4:30 – 5:15 Session Twelve:
Advertising Convergence: Bringing Filipino Consumers Closer to the Brand through Humor
A compilation of the interesting facets of humor in advertising that has sent light messages to the market but delivered solid bottom results to target sales.

Speaker: **Mr. Joselito Ortega**
Chairman & CEO, BrandLab, Inc.

5:15 – 5:45 Closing Session:
The Road to Recovery through Market Convergence
A presentation of ingenuous approaches for business revivals and growth in a converging market.

Speaker: **Mr. Jose Jesus Roces**
Professor, Asian Institute of Management (AIM)
President, Asia Pacific Marketing Federation (APMF)

5:45 – 6:00 Recap by Session Chair

For full programme schedule and other details:

Tel. Nos.: 634-4890; 633-9470
Telefax: 636-1451; 634-5722 (ATTN: ROSE SANTOS)
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Email: sarahpv@pldtdsl.net
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MARKETING CONVERGENCE

Cocktales

From page B3

needed to expropriate the adjoining pieces of property for the runway expansion and relocate the settlers. The landing lights, on the other hand, are no longer needed by Davao when it acquired a new set with its recent expansion.

According to the grapevine, Senate President Franklin Drilon, who hails from the region, has promised to bring about his literal and figurative hefty weight upon the Davao airport authorities to agree to the donation.

To complete the equation, the concreting of the coastal Aklan-Caticlan highway would be finished by July.

Miraflores, a former governor, said the province and the local officials should now ensure that the highway remain billboard-free and sidewalk-uncluttered, if Boracay and Aklan want to remain on top of the tourism game and keep the coastal route as scenic and as pleasant to drive through as, say, the Pacific Coastal Route of California.

Unfortunately, the highway has now been transformed into a pitched battleground of the cell phone companies, with every tree and garbage bin becoming the province's version of ad-choked Edsa.

Even without the billboards, Smart, Globe and Sun should still benefit from the expected foreign tourism boom through their respective roaming agreements with foreign providers.

On the macroeconomic level, the P38-million-and-landing-lights solution should translate into a multibillion-peso windfall for Kalibo because of the expected real estate-retail-and-services upswing should the dreamed-about jet-loads of free-spending international tourists materialize.

Should that finally happen, even Fil "Failed" Estate would be able to rebuild its air force and finally acquire that Gulfstream 1 that American trader Stephen Voorhies has been trying to sell them to service Fil Estate's golf course and hotel project in Boracay.

And if that really happens, then you can resume calling Fil Estate's Robert Sobrepeña "Sobra Pera" again.

Money-go-round

- BACNOTAN Consolidated has allocated P280 million for the complete buyout of Cagayan de Oro College. Bacnotan Consolidated/Phinma president Ramon del Rosario Jr. and COC president Erasmo Damasing will sign the share-purchase agreement today.
- VICTORIA Court has won its more than a decade-old-fight with City Hall to declare then Mayor Alfredo "Dirty Harry" Lim's move to ban motels within Ermita and Malate unconstitutional.

In an en banc decision released last week, the Supreme Court said that the Lim-inspired City Hall ordinance was "so replete with constitutional infirmities that almost every sentence thereof violates a constitutional provision."

- AND speaking of Victoria Court, Globe subscribers may now pay their motel bills through their Globe cell phones, no questions asked. The bill statement, in turn, will reflect "food and drinks" from a certain corporation. In addition, the bill will come in the form of a text acknowledgement, not a printed statement.

Get-well-soon

- TAIPAN Alfonso Yuchengco, who underwent a quintuple heart bypass operation.
- FORMER Finance Undersecretary Romeo Bernardo, who broke a leg after his motorcycle suffered a spill. Despite his scoliosis and golden boy status, Bernardo remains an avid bike enthusiast.

Heard through the grapevine

FORMER PSE chair Robert Coyiuto Jr. is leading the opposition within the board to the proposal to make the chair of the Philippine Stock Exchange, now occupied by his former ally Peter Favila, a salaried position.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@pldtdsl.net or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Thursday, April 21, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	12,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	25.5	25.5	25.5	25.5	100,500
Bank of the Phil. Islands	47.5	47.5	47	47.5	716,800
China Banking Corp.	655	660	655	660	2,380
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.69	0.7	750,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	46	47	46	47	117,500
International Exch. Bank	17.75	18	17.75	18	41,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	31.5	32	31	31	217,700
Philippine National Bank	30.5	31	30.5	31	54,500
Phil. Savings Bank	32	34	32	34	800
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	13	13	13	13	46,200
Security Bank Corp.	27.5	27.5	27.5	27.5	1,200
Union Bank of the Phil.	28.5	28.5	28.5	28.5	500
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
First Abacus Financial	0.4	0.4	0.4	.4	150,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	285	285	285	285	50
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	144,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1620	1620	1620	1620	140
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	14.75	14.75	14.25	14.5	154,300
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.04	1.04	1.02	1.04	963,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	825	825	820	825	9,100
Ipeople Inc.	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	6,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.05	0.05	0.049	.049	6,700,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.1	3.15	3.1	3.15	1,732,000
Transpacific Broadcast	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	27,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1345	1345	1335	1335	155,520
Ivantage Corp.	0.67	0.67	0.67	0.67	310,000
Philweb Corp.	0.019	0.02	0.019	0.02	25,600,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	17	17	16.5	16.75	1,600
Manila Electric Co. B	24	24	23.75	23.75	217,000
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.2	1,400,000
Petron Corp.	3.5	3.5	3.45	3.5	627,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	589,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.78	1.78	1.78	1.78	30,000
Aboitiz Trans. Sys. Corp.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	2,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	6.9	7	6.8	6.8	2,153,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.49	.49	460,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.06	1.06	1.02	1.02	15,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.63	0.63	0.63	.63	130,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	3	3.05	3	3	647,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.35	3.35	3.3	3.35	74,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	2,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	33	33	33	33	5,500
Jollibee Foods Corp.	28.5	29	28.5	28.5	187,100
RFM Corp.	0.87	0.87	.87	.87	100,000
San Miguel Corp. A	57.5	58	57.5	58	68,600
San Miguel Corp. B	82.5	82.5	82.5	82.5	97,800
Universal Robina Corp.	12.25	12.25	12.25	12.25	10,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.29	0.29	.27	.27	520,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0085	.0085	.0085	.0085	46,000,000
Ayala Corp.	6.70	6.7	6.6	6.7	2,952,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.44	0.44	.44	.44	100,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.3	4.3	4.2	4.2	257,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.96	1.96	1.94	1.94	201,000
APC Group Inc.	0.33	0.33	.32	.33	1,780,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0065	0.0065	.0065	.0065	36,000,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	14	14	13.75	13.75	17,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.17	0.175	.17	.175	2,170,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.99	1	.98	1	3,070,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.18	0.19	.18	.19	320,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.23	0.24	.225	.225	350,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.36	0.36	.35	.35	830,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	2.95	3.1	2.95	2.95	5,870,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	9	9	8.9	8.9	213,000
F&J Prince Holdings Corp.	0.62	0.62	.62	.62	30,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	46	46	44	44	747,900
House of Investments Inc.	1.50	1.5	1.5	1.5	50,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.25	3.35	3.1	3.1	1,352,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.88	1.88	1.8	1.8	190,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	391,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.41	0.41	.4	.41	8,860,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	20,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.55	0.55	.55	.55	50,000
SM Investments Corp.	246	247	244	247	912,500
South China Resources Inc.	0.64	0.64	.64	.64	200,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.220	.245	.22	.23	41,860,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.260	.26	.26	.26	750,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.44	1.44	105,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.76	0.76	.76	.76	10,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.15	0.15	.15	.15	10,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	1.16	1.16	1.14	1.14	1,788,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.95	0.95	.91	.91	2,100,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.50	1.52	1.48	1.52	2,165,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.31	0.31	.31	.31	2,110,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	14.25	14.25	14	14	510,300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Q	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.50	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,600
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.50	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,600
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	3,400
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	7.80	7.8	7.6	7.7	2,282,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.82	0.84	.82	.83	330,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.27	0.27	.27	.27	680,000
EIB Realty Developers Inc.	0.18	0.2	.18	.2	70,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.4200	0.43	.42	.43	4,130,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.42	1.44	1.4	1.4	1,872,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	2.20	2.2	2.2	2.2	50,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.2150	.215	.215	.215	10,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.6200	0.62	.62	.62	100,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	4.50	4.55	4.5	4.55	235,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.20	7.4	7.2	7.4	1,131,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	.0090	009	.009	.009	30,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	5.0	5	4.9	4.9	375,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	.3400	0.36	0.33	.33	11,140,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	.3600	0.38	0.35	.36	19,580,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	.0170	0.017	.016	.016	96,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	.0230	0.024	.022	.022	189,500,000
Omico Corp.	.0075	0.008	.0075	.0075	134,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	.9600	1	0.95	.96	1,450,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1.14	1.14	1.12	1.12	2,147,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	35.5	37	35.5	36.5	499,400
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	.0055	.0055	.0055	.0055	19,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	.0060	0.006	.006	.006	10,000,000
Pacifica		.0120	0.012	.012	.012
					1,900,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	2.4	2.4	2.38	2.4	116,000
Sinophil Corp.	.1750	0.175	.175	.175	1,350,000
Vulcan Ind'l	.3600	0.36	0.35	.35	300,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc	2,355,270	54,509,210.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	207,352,920	615,591,570.00
PRO	10,890,000	31,937,950.00
Mining	484,691,400	42,062,680.00
OIL	32,666,000	808,930.00
GRAND TOTALS	737,955,590	744,910,340.00

AVERAGES		
Bank & Fin Svc	542.54	DOWN 2.92
Comm'l & Ind'l	2,897.30	DOWN 13.86
PRO	704.30	DOWN 13.43
Mining	2,842.58	DOWN 42.69
OIL	2.37	DOWN 0.15
All Shares Index	1,133.46	DOWN 7.06
Composite	1,841.94	DOWN 13.03

CURRENCIES

April 21, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.763825237	1.000000	54.3110
Japan	Yen	0.007151	0.009362	0.5085
United Kingdom	Pound	1.466697	1.920200	104.2880
Hongkong	Dollar	0.097936	0.128218	6.9636
Switzerland	Franc	0.648684	0.849257	46.1240
Canada	Dollar	0.61579	0.806192	43.7851
Singapore	Dollar	0.464134	0.607644	33.0018
Australia	Dollar	0.592113	0.775194	42.1016
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.026115	2.652590	144.0648
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.203687	0.266667	14.4830
Brunei	Dollar	0.462728	0.605804	32.9018
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000079	0.000104	0.0056
Thailand	Baht	0.019403	0.025403	1.3797
UAE	Dirham	0.207974	0.272279	14.7877
Euro	Euro	1	1.309200	71.1040
ArgentinaPeso	0.263388	0.344828	18.7280	
Brazil	REAL	0.299012	0.391466	21.2609
Denmark	Kroner	0.134287	0.175809	9.5484
India	Rupee	0.017527	0.022946	1.2462
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.201033	0.263193	14.2943
Mexico	New Peso	0.069034	0.090379	4.9086
New Zealand	Dollar	0.55555	0.727326	39.5018
Norway	Kroner	0.122451	0.160313	8.7068
Pakistan	Rupee	0.012857	0.016832	0.9142
South Africa	Rand	0.125217	0.163934	8.9034
Korea	Won	0.000756	0.000990	0.0538
Sweden	Kroner	0.108967	0.142659	7.7480
Syria	Pound	0.014714	0.019264	1.0462
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024275	0.031781	1.7261
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000356	0.000466	0.0253

SPECULATIVE INVESTMENTS

ADB warns of capital flight

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE ASIAN Development Bank has warned that developing Asia was at risk of a sudden capital flight, saying the recent boom of portfolio investments was largely being fueled by currency speculation.

A sudden reversal of favorable investor sentiment was last seen during the Asian currency turmoil that erupted in mid-1997, most severely affecting Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines and South Korea.

In a recent regional outlook, the ADB said speculation on regional currency appreciation had already triggered substantial private capital inflows to developing Asia, bulk of which was going to mainland China.

In the case of the Philippines, latest government data showed that net inflows of "hot money" or foreign portfolio investments surged to $1.52 billion in the first quarter, about 17 times better than the $91.5 million a year ago due to much-improved investor appetite for local stocks.

But the bank warned the region that "the speculative capital flows also increase the risk of a sharp unwinding if US interest rate increases accelerate as inflation takes off or if investors simply change their expectations."

Developing Asia is used by the ADB to refer to 42 developing territories in Asia, including the newly industrializing countries.

The ADB assured, however, that the region was in better position than it was during the Asian crisis of 1997 that resulted in a freefall of regional currencies.

"Although ample official foreign reserves and strong macroeconomic fundamentals limit the risk of a financial crisis recurring, sound management of capital flows is particularly important for these countries to arrest excess volatility in their currency and financial market," the report said.

"To this end, regional diversification and specialization can help underpin the efficient allocation of financial resources for more productive uses across the region," it said.

The bank said financial risks may be minimized by boosting the competitiveness of individual countries as well as further improving intra-regional trade.

In the case of Southeast Asia where the Philippines is part of, the bank also warned that while forecasts remained optimistic, this sub-region was more vulnerable to high global risks.

What happens to inflation globally and in the sub-region and as a consequence of higher interest rates will be crucial, the bank said.

"In addition, some countries such as Indonesia, the Philippines and possibly Thailand, where public or household debt stocks are larger, could be significantly affected by high interest rates," the ADB said.

"As they are extremely open, a second main concern is what happens to the value of the US dollar," it said.

Should the US dollar fall further down, it said the upward pressure on the sub-region's currencies would increase substantially. While this could contain inflation somewhat, the bank said it would damage the import-export sectors and heighten competition from China.

"Obviously, if a further weakening of the US dollar and higher world interest rates led to a major slowdown in the world economy, the impact on Southeast Asia would be very severe," it said.

The bank thus stressed the need for sound macroeconomic policies, in particular fiscal restraint, complemented by microeconomic reforms to continuously enhance the competitiveness of the economies of the subregion to keep investment inflows high.

IMPORTED COMPUTER FROM AUSTRALIA
[ACER, IBM, COMPAQ, HP, IPEX, etc.]
P1 cpu w/ hdd / ram / fdd P 800
P2 cpu w/ hdd / ram / fdd P 1,750
Celeron cpu w/ hdd / ram / fdd P 1,500
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Investments of Variable Life Insurance Contracts	Current Week April 19, 2005	Last Week April 12, 2005
Bond Fund - Peso	1.22280	1.22123
Managed Fund - Peso	1.31790	1.32899
Bond Fund - US Dollar	1.0849	1.0892

* Note: These investments of variable life insurance contracts are not mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission

INSULAR LIFE — UNIT PRICES (in Php)

Investment Funds of Wealth Builder	April 18, 2005	April 11, 2005
Fixed Income Fund	1.015707	1.014521
Balanced Fund	1.003065	1.001803
Equity Fund	0.974414	0.972578

These investment funds are specific to variable life insurance contracts and are not considered mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission.
The weekly unit prices are also available at www.insularlife.com.ph.

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See posters for details. Promo Duration: April 13 to May 31, 2005. Per DTI-NCR Permit No.0968, Series of 2005.
South & Southeast Asia Regional Headquarters:
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Tels.: 812-6047 • Fax: 894-4174 • info@canon.com.ph • www.canon.com.ph
MDR Microwave Sales
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The 7th Tour of the Fireflies

MAKI-BIKE KA!

Sa ikauunlad ng bayan, bisikleta ang kailangan

Maraming Salamat, Mga Kasama!

Taos-pusong nagpapasalamat ang Firefly Brigade sa mga siklista at mga ka-partner na nakikiisa sa ating layunin na luminis ang hangin sa Kalakhang Maynila at makalikha ng isang makataong lungsod. Maraming salamat sa 4,000 siklistang sumama sa 7th Tour of the Fireflies: "Maki-Bike Ka! Sa ikauunlad ng bayan, disiplina ang kailangan" noong ika-17 ng Abril.

Mga Ka-Partner

Aero-Med Ambulance Transport • Bantay Kalikasan • Bombproof Gear • Centrum • Cities of Caloocan, Manila, and Quezon • Compass Internet • Coppertone • Department of Environment and Natural Resources • Extreme Bike Shop • Healthy Rice • Joven • King's Bike Shop • Maroons • MERALCO • Metro Manila Development Authority • Mountain Dew • Municipality of San Juan • Newton • Philippine Amusement & Gaming Corp. • Philippine Daily Inquirer • Philippine National Police NCR PO • Powerbikes • Roosevelt Bicycle Center • Senator Pia Cayetano • Siemens • Studio 23 • The Bike Room • University of the Philippines: College of Human Kinetics

Upcoming Firefly Brigade Activities

May 20, June 17, July 22, and August 19, all Fridays: Critical Mass Rides

"Critical Mass is just a bunch of cyclists going from one point to another. But the incredible thing is that, in attempting this simple task, so many important questions come up. Why is there so little open space in our cities where people can relax and interact? Why are people compelled to organize their lives around having a car? What would an alternative future look like?" ("How to make a CRITICAL MASS"; http://www.scorcher.org/cmhistory/howto.html)

Sept. 23, Friday: World Car-Free Day Ride

Let's bike together to send the loud message that more bicycles and fewer cars will save money, decongest the roads, and clean the air.

Promoting the Bicycle for Clean Air and Sustainable Cities

The Firefly Brigade

To receive e-news about Firefly Brigade activities, please send a blank message to fireflynews-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.
To join the e-discussion group on cycling and sustainable transport, send a blank message to fireflybrigade-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.
For more information, please email blinking_fireflies@yahoo.com or visit www.FireflyBrigade.org

FUEL CONSERVATION MEASURE

Gov't hikes import duties on luxury vehicles

By Ronnel W. Domingo

IMPORT duties on completely built vehicles with big engines would go up to 25 percent from 20 percent after President Macapagal-Arroyo signed the executive order setting the increase.

Executive Order No. 419, signed last April 4, imposes higher Most Favored Nation duties on imported vehicles that can seat at least 10 people.

Still, the increase is only temporary and would take effect for one year covering vehicles with engine displacements higher than 2,100 cc.

The measure was adopted to promote fuel conservation and discourage the use of vehicles with heavier engine displacements.

The transport sector is second only to the industrial manufacturing in the consumption of energy.

Still, the order exempts registered participants of the Automotive Export Program laid out under EO 244 as amended by EO 312.

The Department of Trade and Industry late last year had proposed to increase the import duty on completely built up units with engine displacements greater than 2 liters to as much as 60 percent.

Trade officials believed that the increase in duties would promote energy conservation and generate additional revenue for the government.

They explained that the proposal would apply to gasoline-powered vehicles with engine displacements of 2.1 liter and higher as well as to diesel-fed ones with 3.2-liter engines and bigger.

But officials of the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines Inc. (Campi) and the Truck Manufacturers' Association Inc. (TMA) had said that they would object to the proposed doubling of duties.

They said the higher duties would undermine investments in the industry.

Campi and TMA said the recommendation was inconsistent with recent policy moves imposing taxes based on the value of vehicles rather than engine displacement.

"The correlation between engine size and fuel efficiency is a technically outdated and incorrect basis for formulating policies," they said.

"Regardless of engine size, advanced engine technology has attained fuel efficiency for passenger cars, light commercial vehicles and (sport utility vehicles)," they added.

The groups said the proposed measure would not effectively distinguish real gas guzzlers from fuel efficient vehicles.

They claimed that the measure would only defeat the purpose of fuel conservation.

They also said that the proposal would erode the tax base since it would dampen the demand for vehicles covered by increased tariff.

The proposal would effectively erode the gains that the industry has so far achieved against used vehicle imports, they said.

Higher tariffs would increase costs, which in turn would further make used vehicles more desirable for buyers.

RP urged to tighten entry of used cars

AN ASIA-PACIFIC Economic Cooperation forum on the automotive industry yesterday stressed the need for the Philippines and other countries to tighten the entry of used vehicles on their shores.

The delegates to the forum said that the entry of used vehicles tended to slow down the automotive industry of the importing country.

Delegates from the Apec member economies gathered at the New World Hotel in Makati City for the three-day 7th Apec Automotive Dialog, which would wrap up today.

The delegates yesterday agreed among themselves that the responsibility on the proliferation of used vehicle imports rests on the receiving countries rather than the exporting ones.

Peter Sturrock, chief executive of Australia's Federal Chamber of Automotive Industries, said in a media briefing that the forum had recognized that the "importation of used vehicles undermines the over-all growth of the new car market and the automotive industries."

"The used vehicles are exported by small groups and entities rather than by the car manufacturers themselves," Sturrock said.

He added that the responsibility would then fall on the governments of the destination countries.

The receiving countries need to tighten the entry points and their customs policies, Sturrock said.

Sturrock also said that countries which receive used vehicle shipments should be more stringent in terms of regulations regarding safety, emission standards and other matters.

Elmer C. Hernandez, who chairs the dialog as representative of the Board of investments, said the most important point raised during the forum was that the body recognizes the problem.

Hernandez, BOI managing head and Trade Undersecretary, added that the forum also agreed to seek solutions and address the matter.

In a prepared statement, the Dialog said it aimed to map out strategies for increasing integration and development of the automotive sector. *Ronnel W. Domingo*

SECURITY BANK

Security Bank Centre
6776 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
(632) 867-6788

STATEMENT OF CONDITION
(Head Office and Branches)
As of March 28, 2005

ASSETS	
Cash and Cash Items	P 1,068,470,217
Due from Bangko Sentral	3,763,268,168
Due from Other Banks	2,069,221,354
Interbank Loans Receivable	5,662,750,554
Trading Account Securities (Net)	22,847,663,637
Investment in Bonds and Other Debt Instruments (Net)	19,656,683,041
Loans, Discounts and Advances (Net)	36,072,853,324
Equity Investments (Net)	2,258,538,348
Bank Premises, Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment (Net)	1,376,886,894
Other Assets (Net):	
Property Owned/Acquired	2,478,559,490
Others	2,614,455,704
TOTAL ASSETS	P 99,869,352,731

LIABILITIES	
Demand Deposits	P 15,016,824,510
Savings Deposits	21,916,748,134
Time Deposits	24,855,945,336
Special/Other Deposits	47,612,249
Due to Bangko Sentral	39,671,849
Due to Banks	245,336,080
Outstanding Checks/Payment Orders	354,283,846
Bills Payable:	
BSP-Rediscounts/Special Programs	49,605,153
Interbank Borrowings	19,481,357,847
Unearned Income and Other Deferred Credits	281,625,043
Other Liabilities	4,235,690,434
Unsecured Subordinated Debt (incl. of Unamortized Premium/Discount)	2,998,876,787
TOTAL LIABILITIES	P 89,523,577,270

CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	
Capital Stock	P 4,981,626,239
Surplus	4,880,377,439
Surplus Reserves	208,900,000
Other Capital accounts	274,871,783
TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	10,345,775,461
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P 99,869,352,731

CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS		
Unused Commercial Letters of Credit		P 2,937,403,669
Bills for Collection		664,229,882
Spot/Future Exchange Bought		25,412,933,080
Spot/Future Exchange Sold		16,048,711,143
Assets Held Under Trust and Investment Management Agreements		7,865,330,337
Invested in:		
Government Securities	P 2,252,701,544	
Other Securities, Debt Instruments and Shares of Stock	232,030,899	
Loans and Discounts	4,104,794,339	
Other Assets	1,275,803,555	
Accountabilities:		
Trust and Other Fiduciary	1,549,348,641	
Common Trust Funds	1,908,058,961	
Investment/Fund Management	4,396,370,276	
Unearned Income and Other Accountabilities	11,552,459	
Other Contingent Accounts		498,818,423
TOTAL CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS		P 53,427,426,534

OTHER INFORMATION:

1. Deposits of:	
a) Government	534,234,715
b) Banks	247,116,922
c) Trust Department	523,834,035

2. Compliance with Magna Carta Law:

	Small Enterprises	Medium Enterprises
Prescribed Ratio of Compliance:	6%	2%
Actual Compliance:	6.8%	11.99%

3. Amount of non-performing loans	2,778,743,038
4. Ratio of non-performing loans to total loan portfolio	6.38%
5. Amount of classified loans and other risk assets	14,461,972,000
6. General provision for loan losses	366,764,500
7. Specific provision for loan losses	2,067,762,726
8. Return on Equity (ROE)	9.39%
9. Amount of DOSRI loans/advances	707,958,286
10. Ratio of DOSRI loans/advances to total loan portfolio	1.63%
11. Amount of past due DOSRI loans/advances	0.00
12. Ratio of past due DOSRI loans/advances to total loan portfolio	0.00

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
CITY OF MAKATI)s.s.

We, Alberto S. Villarosa and Joselito E. Mape of the above mentioned Bank do solemnly swear that all matters set forth in the above statement of condition are true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.

(Sgd.) JOSELITO E. MAPE
Vice President

(Sgd.) ALBERTO S. VILLAROSA
President & CEO

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME this 15th day of April, 2005 at City of Makati, affiants exhibiting to me their Residence Certificate No. 18193708, issued at City of Makati on February 24, 2005 and Residence Certificate No. 18193705, issued at City of Makati on February 24, 2005.

(Sgd.) EDILBERTO H. MIRALLES
Notary Public
Until Dec. 31, 2004
PTR No. 7680004
01-26-2003; Makati City

Doc. No. 328
Page No. 66
Book No. XXXVIII
Series of 2005

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CONDITION
(Bank and its Subsidiaries and Affiliates)
As of March 28, 2004

ASSETS	
Cash and Cash Items	P 1,068,470,217
Due from Bangko Sentral	3,763,268,168
Due from Other Banks	2,103,341,005
Interbank Loans Receivable	5,662,750,554
Trading Account Securities (Net)	23,079,538,948
Investment in Bonds and Other Debt Instruments (Net)	19,657,908,857
Loans, Discounts and Advances (Net)	36,633,255,191
Equity Investments (Net)	121,137,716
Bank Premises, Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment (Net)	1,423,261,720
Other Assets (Net):	
Property Owned/Acquired	2,546,876,139
Others	4,365,176,021
TOTAL ASSETS	P 100,424,984,536

LIABILITIES	
Demand Deposits	P 14,906,698,299
Savings Deposits	21,811,977,788
Time Deposits	24,855,945,338
Special/Other Deposits	47,612,249
Due to Bangko Sentral	39,671,849
Due to Banks	245,336,080
Outstanding Checks/Payment Orders	354,283,846
Bills Payable:	
BSP-Rediscounts/Special Programs	49,605,153
Interbank Borrowings	19,481,357,847
Unearned Income and Other Deferred Credits	281,625,043
Other Liabilities	4,997,887,079
Unsecured Subordinated Debt (incl. of Unamortized Premium/Discount)	2,998,876,787
TOTAL LIABILITIES	P 90,072,877,358

CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	
Capital Stock	P 4,981,626,239
Surplus	4,886,709,156
Surplus Reserves	208,900,000
Other Capital accounts	274,871,783
TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	10,352,107,178
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P 100,424,984,536

CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS		
Unused Commercial Letters of Credit		P 2,937,403,669
Bills for Collection		664,229,882
Spot/Future Exchange Bought		25,412,933,080
Spot/Future Exchange Sold		16,048,711,143
Assets Held Under Trust and Investment Management Agreements		7,865,330,337
Invested in:		
Government Securities	P 2,252,701,544	
Other Securities, Debt Instruments and Shares of Stock	232,030,899	
Loans and Discounts	4,104,794,339	
Other Assets	1,275,803,555	
Accountabilities:		
Trust and Other Fiduciary	1,549,348,641	
Common Trust Funds	1,908,058,961	
Investment/Fund Management	4,396,370,276	
Unearned Income and Other Accountabilities	11,552,459	
Other Contingent Accounts		498,818,423
TOTAL CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS		P 53,427,426,534

OTHER INFORMATION:

1. Deposits of:	
a) Government	543,234,715
b) Banks	247,116,922
c) Trust Department	523,834,035

2. List of Bank's Subsidiaries:
a) Security Finance, Inc.
b) SB Cards Corporation
c) SB Forex, Incorporated
d) SB Capital Investment Corporation
e) Security Land Corporation
f) Landlink Property Investments (SPV-AMC), Inc.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
CITY OF MAKATI)s.s.

We, Alberto S. Villarosa and Joselito E. Mape of the above mentioned Bank do solemnly swear that all matters set forth in the above statement of condition are true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.

(Sgd.) JOSELITO E. MAPE
Vice President

(Sgd.) ALBERTO S. VILLAROSA
President & CEO

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME this 15th day of April, 2005 at City of Makati, affiants exhibiting to me their Residence Certificate No. 18193708, issued at City of Makati on February 24, 2005 and Residence Certificate No. 18193705, issued at City of Makati on February 24, 2004.

(Sgd.) EDILBERTO H. MIRALLES
Notary Public
Until Dec. 31, 2004
PTR No. 7680004
01-26-2003, Makati City

Doc. No. 327
Page No. 66
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Fooled thrice makes you wise

COMMENTARY

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

TO BE fooled once is sad; twice, regrettable; thrice, disastrous.

The Cordillera carrot farmers were fooled once in 2004. They were fooled again late last year. Then they ran the risk of being fooled a third time two days ago.

Thankfully, the third time did not happen.

Due to enlightened officials at the Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI), as well as the vigilance of the Cordillera carrot farmers, the April 20 stakeholders' consultation on the carrot Pest Risk Analysis (PRA) turned out to be a win-win situation for all.

Pest risk analysis

For five months starting July 2003, carrots from China were imported into the Philippines without the required PRA. Pest Risk Analysis is a scientific tool provided under the World Trade Organization's Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary Agreement.

The PRA serves as "a safety net for an importing country to protect its boundary against any introduction of pests and diseases."

Because of the absence of the required PRA, the DA Secretary stopped the carrot importation last November 2003. Unfortunately, the damage had been done. At least 80,000 Cordillera carrot farmers lost their livelihood during that time. This was because the carrots from China were being sold wholesale at P7, while the break-even price for our carrot farmers was P10.

There was also the risk that the imported carrots were not safe for consumers to eat. In addition, there was the great danger that pests and diseases carried by these carrots would spread to the farms, thus destroying the farmers' crops.

A second occurrence that jeopardized the livelihood of the carrot farmers happened in September 2004.

A signing of an agreement for the importation of Chinese carrots was scheduled between the Philippine and Chinese governments. A day before the signing, small farmer advocates like Benjie Angeles and Benguet Provincial Board member John Kim informed Department of Agriculture (DA) Secretary Arthur Yap that the PRA covering the carrots still was not completed.

Yap immediately canceled the agreement signing.

The third time

The Cordillera farmers did not believe that to be "fooled thrice would make you wise." They felt that, with the pain of two previous experiences, they had already wised up to the danger of unscrupulous people importing carrots without the required PRA. Thus, they came in more than 20 vehicles from the Cordillera to Manila in response to a letter inviting them to a "last leg of public consultations" on a PRA for imported carrots.

The farmers feared that this consultation would be used by devious elements to claim that the PRA had been completed and that the carrot importation could commence.

Led by Joe Andizo and Alfredo Alangdeo, a Key Alyansa Agrikultura leader, the Cordillera farmers acted swiftly. They brought to the consultation political leaders such as Benguet Governor Bonifacio Salazar, Congressman Victor Dominguez, and selected Benguet provincial board members and municipal mayors.

More importantly, they brought professors from the Benguet State University who were invited to do an independent scientific review of the PRA.

Review results

According to Professor Jocelyn Perez, the PRA has shown that the Chinese carrots would introduce 12 pests that are not present in the country today.

"If we have a very difficult time controlling pests in the highlands, why should we introduce 12 new pests, two of which the PRA identified as high risk?" Perez asked.

Perez believes that we cannot put in place the appropriate prevention measures to control the pests.

Esther Tuazon, former BPI quarantine head, wholeheartedly supported this view. She cited a high risk pest that was in all the three categories of Entry, Establishment, and Spread.

Though there was a PRA recommendation to limit this carrot importation to an urban center, she said there were insufficient controls to prevent the carrots from spreading elsewhere.

Dr. Asuncion Nagpala, also from Benguet State University, pursued the same line of thinking regarding the inadequacy of control measures.

"Since it is critical that we know if we can really prevent the spread of the new pests and diseases, why are we rushing the PRA approval?" Nagpala said.

Good news

Dr. Hernani Golez, the BPI PRA team head, said that the productive April 20 meeting would no longer be the "last leg of consultations."

He would invite again the ten BSU scientists who had unanimously agreed on a PRA position paper to work with Tuazon, the former BPI quarantine head, and a panel of experts from the University of the Philippines in Los Baños to strengthen the PRA.

This is especially important because Golez himself said that only two of the ten information requirements for pest risk analysis had been completed.

"Given the need for more work, I can say we do not have sufficient basis to recommend carrot importation from China at this time," Golez said.

With the PRA still incomplete, there should be no importation at this time because of the danger of new pests and diseases and the inadequate prevention measures.

Before any final decision is made, it is absolutely necessary for the PRA to be completed.

The farmer leaders should be commended for not having waited to be fooled thrice before they became wise.

They took the initiative in asserting their right to be heard, and got a very favorable response from enlightened DA officials.

It is hoped that this partnership between farmers and the DA be forged more often, especially in the challenging area of international trade.

(The author is the chair of Agriwatch, a private sector initiative; former Cabinet secretary for Presidential Flagship Programs and Projects, and former undersecretary for agriculture, and trade and industry. For inquiries and suggestions, email agriwatchphil@yahoo.com or telefax 8516635.)

Gov't to settle VAT claims of Japan contractors

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT of Budget and Management said the government would soon settle the estimated P150 million in VAT (value-added tax) refund claims of Japanese contractors that had serviced infrastructure projects.

Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin said the DBM had already included in its expenditure schedule for this year the VAT refund claims of the Japanese contractors.

The contractors had been tapped to undertake projects funded by the Japanese government, through the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC).

"[The] bulk, or more than 50 percent of the claims, were already paid last year, and we plan to settle the other half this year," Boncodin yesterday told reporters.

Should unexpected expenditure arises, the government would have to settle its obligation to the contractors early next year, she said.

The Japanese contractors are claiming that they are entitled to over P300 million in VAT refund, of which over half have already been paid. The contractors had complained that concerned government agencies had been delinquent in refunding their VAT claims.

Under an agreement between the Philippine and Japanese governments, the contractors undertaking Japanese-funded projects should be exempted from the tax.

The government hopes that the settlement of the VAT refund claims would put an end to speculations that the Japanese government's official development assistance to the Philippines would be cut due to the unsettled claims.

Earlier, the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Philippines Inc. (JCCIPI) wrote a letter to President Macapagal-Arroyo, asking her to do something about the claims.

The JCCIPI also said that aside from the VAT refund, the Japanese contractors have also gone after some government agencies that have not yet paid them for their services.

According to the group, the government agencies still owe the Japanese contractors over P800 million for services rendered.

Boncodin said the DBM was not aware of the claims, but she added that the concerned agencies should report to her office whatever amount still owed to the Japanese contractors.

PSBank
PHILIPPINE SAVINGS BANK
A METROBANK SUBSIDIARY

PSBank Center, 777 Paseo de Roxas cor. Sedeño St., Makati City

STATEMENT OF CONDITION
(Head Office and Branches)
As of March 28, 2005

ASSETS

Cash and Cash Items	P	772,746,595.36
Due from Bangko Sentral		996,507,796.16
Due from Other Banks		1,231,588,083.34
Interbank Loans Receivable		2,500,000,000.00
Trading Account Securities (Net)		559,726,560.50
Investments in Bonds and Other Debt Instruments (Net)		12,972,432,641.27
Loans, Discounts & Advances (Net)		24,584,203,154.78
Equity Investments (Net)		25,000,000.00
Bank Premises, Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment (Net)		1,540,934,303.29
Other Assets (Net):		
Property Owned/Acquired		2,133,614,838.60
Others		1,710,115,730.70
TOTAL ASSETS	P	49,026,869,704.00

LIABILITIES

Demand Deposits	P	3,039,948,228.16
Savings Deposits		15,051,897,232.51
Time Deposits		24,874,851,641.58
Due to Bangko Sentral		16,514,000.00
Outstanding Checks/Payment Orders		170,778,508.92
Unearned Income & Other Deferred Credits		36,779,599.96
Other Liabilities		1,235,782,645.49
TOTAL LIABILITIES	P	44,426,551,856.62

CAPITAL ACCOUNTS

Capital Stock	P	1,795,015,200.00
Surplus		2,417,195,511.96
Surplus Reserves		388,107,135.42
TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P	4,600,317,847.38
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P	49,026,869,704.00

CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS

Bills for Collection	P	465,143.50
Assets Held Under Trust and Investment Management Agreements		1,219,685,095.39
Invested in:		
Government Securities		23,044,354.89
Other Securities, Debt Instruments and Shares of Stock		59,403,704.78
Other Assets		1,137,237,035.72
Accountabilities:		
Trust & Other Fiduciary		146,631,856.48
Investment/Fund Management		1,073,053,238.91
Other Contingent Accounts		103,954,676.18
TOTAL CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS	P	1,324,104,915.07

Additional Information:

1. Deposits of		
a) Government	P	-
b) Banks		993,332.53
c) Trust Department		1,136,749,805.31
2. a. Total Non-Performing Loans		1,622,953,505.47
b. Classified Loans & Other Risk Assets		2,995,701,591.77
c. General Loan Loss Reserve		238,709,716.94
d. Specific Loan Loss Reserve		729,008,730.38
e. Total DOSRI Loans/Advances		2,026,658,561.34
f. Past Due DOSRI Loans Advances		-
g. Ratio of Non-Performing Loans to Total Loan Portfolio		5.42%
h. Ratio of Total DOSRI Loans/Advances to Total Loan Portfolio		6.77%
i. Ratio of Past Due DOSRI to Total Loan Portfolio		
j. Return on Equity		13.43%

Board of Directors

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Chairman

Arthur V. Ty
Vice Chairman

Jovencio F. Cinco
Vice Chairman

Margaret T. Cham

Danilo L. Dolor

Pascual M. Garcia, III

Jose Macario Laurel, IV

Alberto A. Pedrosa

Regis V. Puno

Angelito M. Villanueva

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Pascual M. Garcia, III
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Rolando A. Rodriguez
Executive
Vice President

Ismael A. De Leon
Senior Vice President

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Senior Vice President

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
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We, ROLANDO A. RODRIGUEZ and PASCUAL M. GARCIA, III of the above-mentioned bank do solemnly swear that all matters set forth in the above statement of condition are true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.

(Sgd) ROLANDO A. RODRIGUEZ
Executive Vice President

(Sgd) PASCUAL M. GARCIA, III
President

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Series of 2005

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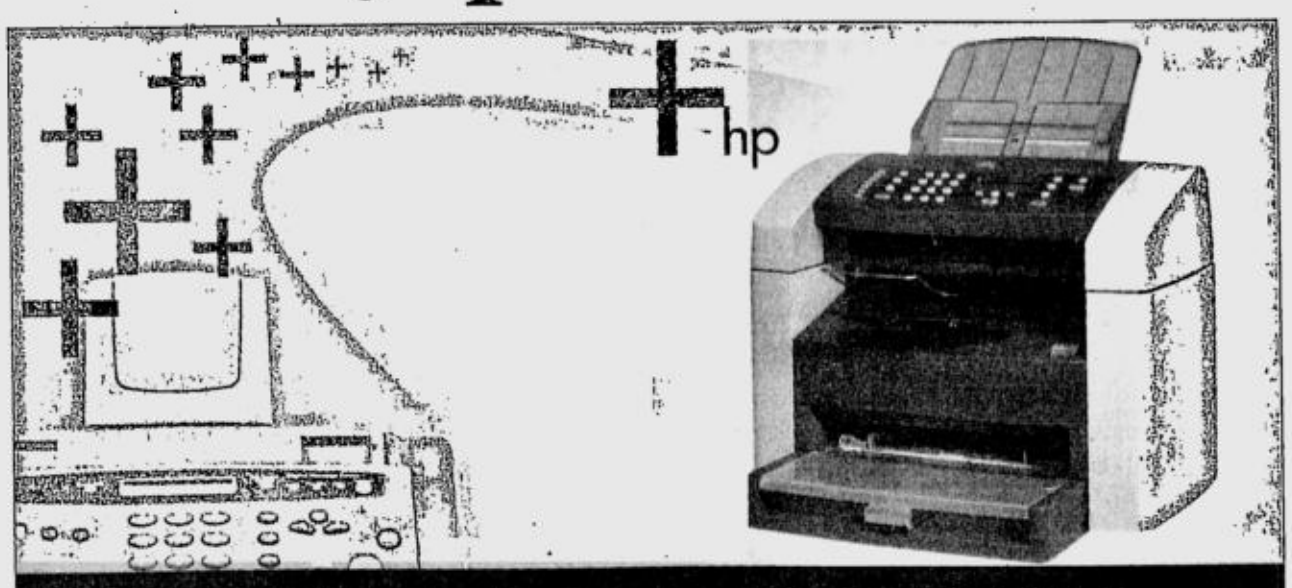

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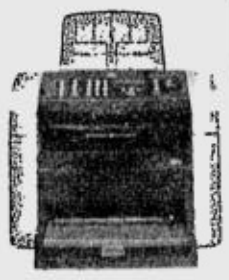

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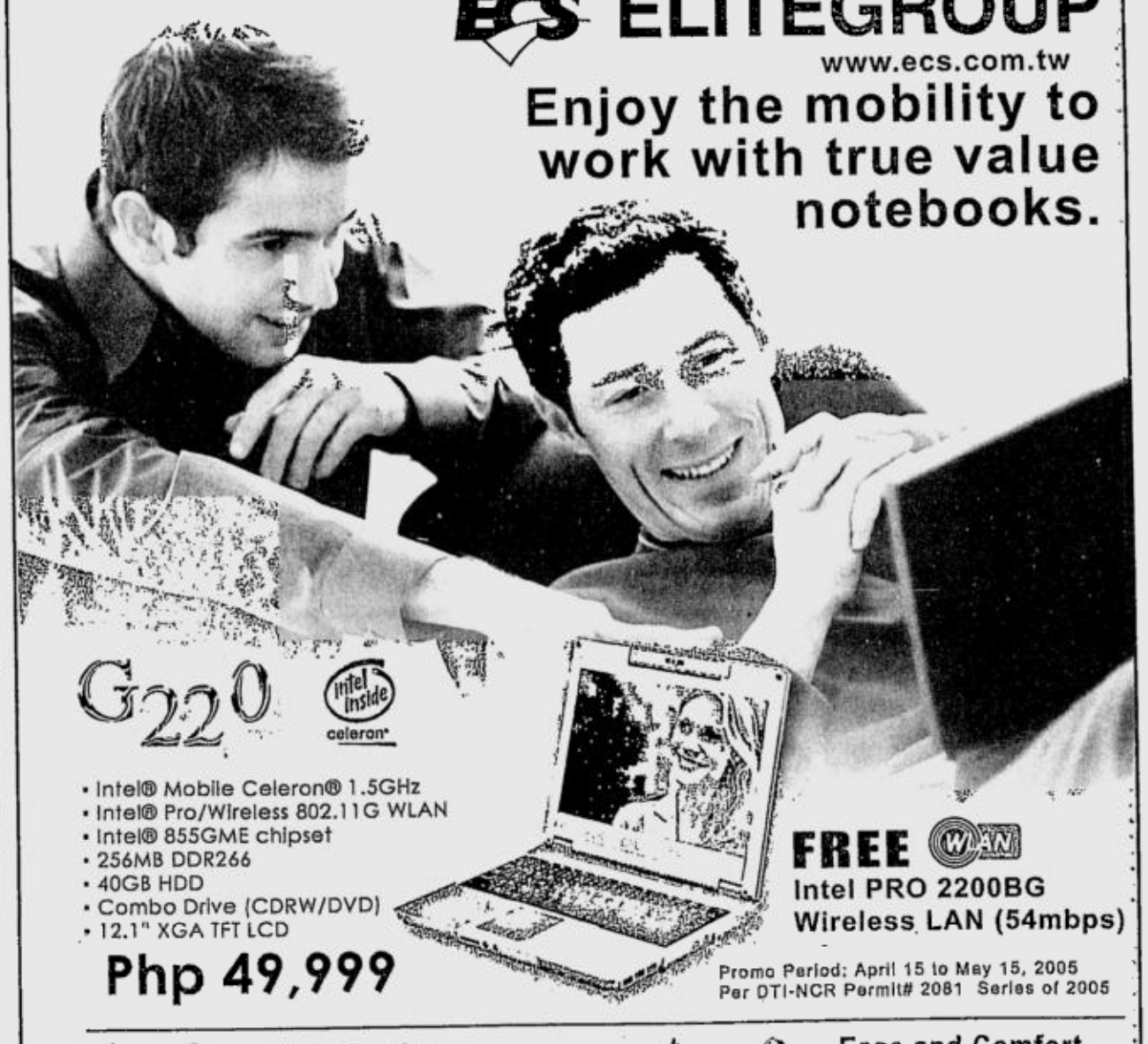

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Perfect game bowler drives home new car

BUSINESSMAN Jhake Santos bowled his way to win a brand new Chevrolet Aveo for having a perfect game during the recent Third SM Bowling Cup Grand Finals. This is Santos' second perfect game award, having previously won P100,000 at the SM City North-Edsa Bowling Center.

Believing that practice indeed makes perfect, the SM Bowling Center also awarded four perfect game winners at the SM Megamall Bowling Center. These included Danny Tuazon, president of Ultra Cote Paints Coting Corp, Christian Koh of Cathay Industrial and Mill Supply Inc, Kim Ian Chi, a businessman, and Julius Sy, a layout artist. They each not only brought home P100,000 in cash but also 300 free games from the SM Bowling Centers.

The Fourth SM Bowling Cup is now ongoing and is open to all male and female bowling enthusiasts. Sponsored by Pepsi Cola, Chevrolet Pasig, Nature's Spring, Accel, and Philippine Airlines, prizes at stake include P150,000 for the grand prize winner, P50,000 for the first runner up, and P25,000 for the second runner up.

Monthly Center Finals, on the other hand, are held at all SM Bowling Centers, with top bowlers winning P20,000 as champion and P10,000 and P5,000 for the first and second runners up, respectively.

The Fourth SM Bowling Cup is ongoing until May at all SM Bowling Centers.

SM CITY North Edsa's Jhake Santos was the lucky winner of a brand new Chevrolet Aveo for being the perfect game bowler during the 4th SM Bowling Cup. With him are Chevrolet Pasig's Mon Ablaza and SM's Sidric Panganiban.

Pixel Pleasures captures Alabang Town Center this summer

SUMMER'S heating up and its time to hit the vacation destination of your dreams with your family, friends and loved ones. But wait, before you fly, sail or drive away, make sure you're well equipped to capture the happiest, funniest, coolest and memorable moments of your trip. Come and experience Pixel Pleasures at the Alabang Town Center, where you will find the best and latest digital cameras and video camcorders available in the market.

From April 18 to May 8, top camera makers Canon, Casio, Hitachi, JVC, Kodak, Konica Minolta, Nikon, Olympus, Panasonic, Pentax, Samsung and Sony will be showcasing their latest product offerings at the Pixel Pleasures exhibit from Automatic Centre.

Expect to find the complete line of digital cameras at Pixel Pleasures, including the slimmest and lightest digicams that deliver 7-megapixels of resolution. Also, look out for the hottest camcorders in the market that feature tape-less video recording as well as megapixel photo capabilities.

What's more, Automatic Centre has purposely designed new display modules for Pixel Pleasures to allow customers to truly "experience" the cameras. "We understand that when it comes to cameras, our customers require significant interaction with the products. They like to touch, feel and try the different products for themselves before making their purchase decisions", shares Geoffrey Lim of Automatic Centre. "We have, therefore, broken with the tradition of keeping these cameras in locked up glass showcases. Instead, we have created an experiential and interactive display for the public to appreciate and encounter cameras as they should be enjoyed."

What else are you waiting for? Head on to Pixel Pleasures where Automatic Centre promises a wide variety of cameras and video cameras at your fingertips. Avail yourself of great prices, huge discounts, 0-percent installment deals, easy financing plans and expect lots of fantastic freebies at the exhibit.

Pixel Pleasures will be at the Alabang Town Center (located near Çorte de Las Palmas and right beside California Pizza Kitchen and HSBC) from April 18 to May 8.

Alaska Milk builds homes in San Pedro, Laguna

AS PART of Alaska Milk Corp's (AMC) contribution to the task of nation building, the company forged an alliance with the municipality of San Pedro, Laguna and Gawad Kalinga committing to build 100 homes for the relocation of some of the municipality's squatters within the year.

San Pedro, Laguna has been the home of AMC's manufacturing plant since it began its operations in 1972. Wilfred Steven Uytengsu, president and COO of Alaska Milk Corp, believes that with the help of Gawad Kalinga, AMC will be able to give back to the residents of San Pedro, Laguna.

Gawad Kalinga is a community development foundation engaged in providing decent housing units and livelihood projects for the less fortunate. The Foundation will also develop and implement livelihood programs for the beneficiaries of the housing units.

The municipality of San Pedro's task is to conduct a comprehensive census among the existing informal dwellers or the squatters of the Municipality who shall be the qualified beneficiaries of the houses. The municipality will also undertake the relocation of the beneficiaries to the project site.

Officially launching the development of a 6-hectare relocation site at Bayan-bayanan, Barangay San Vicente in San Pedro, Laguna, the municipal government-Gawad Kalinga Alaska Village Kapitbahayan had a meaningful groundbreaking ceremony March 18.

San Pedro's city officials, led by Governor Teresita "Ning-Ning" Lazaro, were present at the ceremony. Hearts melted when the Gawad Kalinga Children sang its theme song. After Lazaro's speech, Antonio P. Meloto, executive director of Gawad Kalinga, gave a challenging "call to action". San Pedro Mayor Felicimo Vierneza and Uytengsu then responded to the challenge.

"The Alaska Village will be a lasting marker of AMC's love and care for the people of San Pedro, Laguna. Our effort is not just limited to funding the cost of these homes. We pledge our support to help build these homes alongside the future residents of this community and truly experience the concept of giving in the spirit of bayanihan," Uytengsu said.

Through this alliance, AMC has not only committed to build homes, but to assist in providing livelihood, educational and medical projects for the qualified beneficiaries of the 100 homes as well.

BEAUTY QUEEN JOINS AVON CELEBRATION

Avon's recent celebration of the 2nd Grand Dealer's Day took on a more exciting turn with the participation of Bb. Pilipinas World 2005 Carlene Aguilar. The newly crowned beauty titlist made the day a memorable one for the Avon franchise dealers (FDs) as she joined them in several exciting activities and games. The global beauty company had declared 2005 the 'year of the Avon dealers', and the Grand Dealer's Day was part of a yearlong celebration in honor of the hundreds of thousands of Avon dealers in the country. Shown is the statuesque Bb Pilipinas-World Carlene Aguilar with a group of Avon FDs during her visit to the Avon Shaw branch. For more information about Avon and its products, log on to www.avoncompany.com.

Pizza Hut Chicken Festival

THINK pizza and Pizza Hut comes to mind. Think chicken and again, it's Pizza Hut. Make no mistake about it. Pizza Hut, the world's number one pizza restaurant chain, introduces a lineup of chicken menu. Adding into the arena of its being a casual dining restaurant, Pizza Hut launches the Chicken Festival-a wide array of new offerings under its chicken campaign.

With this new lineup of chicken delights, Pizza Hut offers not only value for money but food variety, now widened up with its chicken menu items. Up on the list of the chicken menu is the Roast Chicken that goes perfectly well with spaghetti, which you can enjoy for only P149. Or if you want it ordered ala carte, have the rosemary-garlic chicken roasted to perfection for only P119.

The Chicken Oriental Salad, which you can enjoy for P79, is a delight of fresh greens and grilled chicken in oriental dressing. Chicken Spaghetti is a saucy combination of chunky chicken, mushrooms and bell pepper in mildly sweet sauce.

And who can refuse Chicken Puffs, described appropriately as creamy chicken pot pie in flaky crust. Finally,

there is the innovative Chicken Popcorn Pizza where juicy chicken chunks in sweet and creamy mayo sauce is set amidst hearty veggies. For deliveries, call 911-1111.

BITS & Clips

Mitasca Golf Cup

THE MAPUA Institute Technology Alumni of Student Catholic Action (Mitasca) will hold a 1-day golf tournament on April 23 at Club Intramuros Golf Course as part of the 50th foundation day of the Mapua Institute of Technology Student Catholic Action (Mitsca). Dubbed "GOLFehan Sa Intramuros", the charity event hopes to generate funds for the scholarship program of the association. Expected to see action are Mitscans, Mitascans, Mapuans, friends and golf enthusiasts. For details, call Jowee Matias at 562-0964 or 0919-5548363, Sanny Jegillos at sanny@idrmhome.org or 0918-9191736.

Children's book art forum

A PANEL discussion on "The State of Children's Book Art Today" will be held at Mag:net Katipunan on April 23 from 2 to 4 p.m. The forum is co-sponsored by Ang Ilustrador ng Kabataan and will feature illustrators Pepper Roxas, Totet de Jesus, Liza Flores, Marcus Nada, and Jason Moss as well as well-known children's book author Augie Rivera. Chosen works from Adarna House's 25 years' worth of storybooks will be on display at Mag:net Katipunan until April 30. For more information, call Adarna at 372-3548 local 110 or call Mag:net Katipunan at 929-3191.

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'A Day With an Artist'

TOP FILIPINO artists will share their talents and skills in workshops presented by the Ayala Museum and Ayala Land Inc on April 23 and 30. Dubbed "A Day With an Artist", the art event invites people of all ages to observe some of the country's best artists in action and learn basic techniques to incorporate into their own works of art. "A Day With An Artist" will be held at the Fountain Area of Greenbelt 3 Park, 3:30 p.m. Pre-registration is accepted at the Ayala Museum's information desk, Glorietta and Greenbelt 3 customer service booths. Call 757-7117 to 21 local 28 for more details.

Eastwood City's healthy lifestyle

EASTWOOD City, the premier satellite city in the country, recently launched its project Eastwood City is Green City. Since the start of March, the city has been coming up with fitness activities to help more Filipinos "save their lives". Starting April 23, Eastwood City will be having the Weekend Organic Market every Saturday and Sunday. The Organic Producers Trade Association (Opta) will be exhibiting and selling organic products and other items supporting healthy living. There will also be free lectures on living a healthy lifestyle every Saturday and Sunday 11:30 a.m. To complete the healthy living lifestyle, Eastwood City treats everyone to free aero classes every Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at the Eastwood City Walk 2 at 6:30 p.m. For more details, call 687-6770 to 74 or at 0917-8EWCITY and look for Karen Sta. Maria.

Managing restaurants

MB&G/ProActive is now accepting reservations for the Managing a Restaurant/Canteen Seminar-Workshop slated for April 25 to 29 (excluding weekends) from 1 to 5 p.m. at Eastwood City, Libis, Quezon City. Reservations are being accepted on a first-come-first-served basis. For details, call Manu at 687-1787 or 0915-4315375. The 5-day training will cover such topics as planning the concept, menu, location, layout and equipment; hygiene and sanitation; human resource development, and cost control.

'Tex Mex Fiesta'

RELISH the distinctive blend of herbs, sauces and cultures in the "Tex Mex Fiesta" of Edsa Shangri-La's Garden Café from now until April 25. Considered as America's most popular regional cuisine, Tex Mex is a melting pot of tastes and styles from four continents that crossed the borders of Texas with the arrival of Spanish and Mexican conquerors. Southern Texas' indigenous recipes and Northern Mexico's culinary traditions, enriched by ingredients from Africa, South America, the Caribbean, France and Asia, gave birth to cuisine that packs a flavorful punch-Tex Mex. Garden Café spices up its lunch and dinner buffet with a feast for the cowboy-mariachi. Among these are quesadillas, tacos, tortillas, jalapeno, fajitas, and a variety of traditional Tex Mex condiments. For inquiries, call 633-8888 extensions 2738/2739.

Lawyers' confab at CJH

THE COUNTRY'S best legal minds vow to take a more active role in resolving the most pressing concerns in the country today, including poverty, an increasing problem for Filipinos over the decades. This resolve will be emphasized during the 10th National Convention of Lawyers sponsored by the Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP) from April 19 to 23 at the CAP-John Hay Trade and Cultural Center in Camp John Hay, Baguio City. The convention's theme is "Alleviating Poverty and Resolving the Fiscal Crisis: Challenges for the Legal System". Up to 5,000 leaders of the legal profession are expected to attend the event, which is held every two years. IBP is also expected to confer honors to its most distinguished members. This year's convention will be hosted by the IBP Baguio-Benguet Chapter and the IBP Northern Luzon Region.

Brain injury survivors' support group

BRAIN injury survivors and their families are invited to attend a get-together to be held at 3 p.m. on April 23 at 51 Sanso Street, Corinthian Gardens, Quezon City. The primary objective of the meeting is to create an opportunity for the brain injured and their families to be in solidarity with one another, share common experiences, form a community support group, and build a future that provides better care for people with brain injuries. The gathering is being organized by Team Mila, a husband-and-wife-advocacy team dedicated to promoting the dignity and rights of people with disabilities. For more details, interested participants can call Wawel Mercado at 638-1741 or e-mail wawel_mercado@hotmail.com.

Healing Mass, teaching

THE FEDERATION of Transparochial Charismatic Communities (FTCC) and Buklod Ng Pag-Ibig Community have invited Fr. James D'Souza, an international preacher and healer, to conduct a 1-day Easter recollection on April 23. The recollection will be divided into two parts: Healing Mass from 9 a.m. to 12 noon and teaching from 1to 6 p.m. The topic will be "How to Avoid Purgatory and Go Straight to Heaven". Everyone is invited to experience this rare encounter with a preacher who seeks to transform by giving Jesus a chance to work in our life. This Easter recollection is free. It will be held at the Buklod Ng Pag-Ibig Healing Center, 97 Balete Drive Extension, New Manila, Quezon City. For more inquiries, call 724-7546 or 724-7534.

Moony in Manila

MINT Manila and Club Halo present "Moony Live in Manila", a dance concert on April 23 at Premiere THX, Milelong, Makati City. Moony has already had a No. 3 hit in the United Kingdom as part of DB Boulevard with "Point of View", and now singer-songwriter Moony is set to make her mark as a solo artist. Born Monica Bragato, Moony first established herself on the Venetia club scene, attracting the attention of DJ/producer Cristiano Spiller who asked her to add vocals to some of his dance outfit Spiller's biggest hits. Her solo album "Lifestories" is out July 5. For ticket reservations, call 892-2503. Ticket outlets are at Electronics Depot Allmall (995-0397); Robinsons Galleria (East Wing, 634-5554); Festival Mall Alabang (775-0595); Robinsons Manila (3rd floor, 302-0418). For more details, visit www.halo-club.com.

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COME TO OUR OPEN HOUSE ON APRIL 23
THE TROPICS
Marcos Highway, Cainta, Rizal
Call us at 721-0771
Bank and In-house payment available

CONDO/TWNHSE

CAVITE

RSG GUEVENTHOMES

as low as P775T
30% D/P in easy installment
70% Balance thru In-House convertible to "Pag-IBIG Housing Loan
Mandaluyong Sales Ofc:
531-0385 * 531-1384 * 534-9921
(0920)910-0000 * (0927)RSGHOME
Toll Free: 1-800-10 RSGHOME
www.guevent.com
other sites available
Cainta, Quezon City
BACOOR only 10 mins from Baclaran!
as low as
P4,800/mo*
* Pag-IBIG Housing Loan

MAKATI

MAKATI CONDO FOR SALE 410-8395 / 0919-8504468

P 1.5M 3Br Condo Nr Mktl Drew 0921-6438096; 7401083

RENT 2 OWN Condo Resort! 2BR P12T RFO 0928-2473987

RESORT TYPE CONDO
2-4BR 1.2M UP Nr.D'FORT & ORTGS SEMI FUR COMPLIT AMENT'S RENT 2 OWN & PG-IBG OK. 09206348545

MANILA

BAY GARDEN ROXAS BLVD 1,2,3BR 0920-9602940 RFO

ESPANA TOWER nr UST 999Tup 6873372/0917-8102903

MANDALUYONG

BNew 2BR 2TB 0921-7000030

CONDO, BNEW, 09192189817

PASIG

Condo Resort Type Pasig 1M Up 10%DP Mv-In 40m² Up RFO 0916-7029453 411-9256

Galleria Corp Ctr 107m² FF 4.8M 6873372/0917-8102903

QUEZON CITY

• 4-5KMS to MRT/SM North •
QC CONDO
as low as P550/unit 30-90m² BM/Agents wanted 0919-2302120 FOR ANNOUNCEMENT ONLY

Condo w/parking RFO 47m² 0919-5162511 / 4376701

CUBAO Condo 1.5M 9126976

EASTWOOD 3BR 3TB 4M
AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY Panoramic View Pool 77m² 0918-4845443

Sct Area: NEW LA-157 FA-290 4BR 4TB 4CG P7.5 711-9051

CONDO/TWNHSE

CAVITE

QUEZON CITY

Teachers Vill: NEW LA-60 FA-200 4BR 3TB 2CG P4.4M 711-9051

SAN JUAN

MANDALUYONG NR SHAW BnewTwnhse 3stry/3br/3-4tb/mdsrm/1-2grge P3.655M up 8903461

TAGUIG

Hampston Place 0917-5213838

LOT

PROVINCIAL

★100% TAGAYTAY ★
240m²-up 3,558m² 134T D/P 6 Mos to pay 6T Mo, nr Taal Vista 6609372

RIZAL

549m² Resl Clean Title Angono 0918-9079837

CAVITE

Eagle Ridge Fairway w/golf share 6873372/0917-8102903

Orchard 300m² 724-8665

BUILDING

BNEW 5STOREY BLDG.
Res./Comml 120m² Paco Area P20M • Lita 0917-8338896

MEMORIAL LOT

HvensGate Cheap 0917-8571990

Mla. Meml Dasma 724-8665

FARM/FISHPEN/ RAWLANDS

4.9M Farm Lot Fruit Trees [illegible]

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

HOUSE

BULACAN

1BR/TB P5500/mo Sta Maria Lyn M 8909718;09193384431

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

CTL8 Furn 1BR P14T 9299835

GRNBELT P20T W/PRKG FF/UNF ALSO 1,2,3 BR 0917-851-1193

Prime Twr 1BR 0921-7985148

ROCKWELL HIDALGO 2BR 2TB MAIDSRM TB SEMI FURNSH (0918)9271137 6306077

MANDALUYONG

BNew 2BR 2TB 0920-9145193

California Gardens Square bnew 2BR 2TB 10th flr 9401429 /09155591241 Karlo

PASIG

Astoria 2br Unf 30T 4121825

RIVERSIDE EXECUTIVE TOWNHOMES
nr Ever Gotesco Pasig Merife 4213785 / 86 ; 09178356891

QUEZON CITY

2BR Penths Furn 30T Front Ateneo 641-1949 • 641-0511

STUDIO TYPE NR V.LUNA HOSP 4352186/09194295109

WANTED TO RENT
furnish condo near Ateneo Katipunan
Contact Peter 0917-3042138

APARTMENT

MAKATI

STUDIO IN PERLA MANSION 5339225 OR 09178340519

MANILA

3136 Reposo St 7157132

BIG 2BR 2TB UP/DN P12T G FORBES CALL 8425280

MANDALUYONG

3BR 2TB Grg 23T • 532-0486 Ofc. Hrs. • Luna Mencias St.

PRIVATE COMPOUND STUDIO 5339225 OR 09178340519

QUEZON CITY

35B Scout Fuentebella QC 20T 3BR 2T&B 2Car Grge Call 371-2164 Nita

8th Avenue, Murphy, Cubao 3BR 2TB 15T Call 911-4510

FOR LEASE

For Lease Office Bldg. Goodwill II Sucat P'que City Tel No. 825-9550

WAREHOUSE/ FACTORY

500sqshp Cubao 7257342 30T

QC Whse 350/600/420m² 24hr sec. high wall individual roll up door,wide pkg space, acesible 4563243

ROOM & BOARD

8th Ave. Cubao 4T 912-1163

BF P'QUE 8257524 P200!!

•FURNISH PASAY 8872865•

P120 only! Cool 711-8679 WINDSOR INN, Maceda St nr 7-11 Dimasalang Mla

BEDSPACE

Mktl nr Ayala P1T Ldy 8974697

BUSINESS RENTAL

Dental Clinic For Sale/Lease Rm224 Atrium Bldg Makati •811-4071/823-6047•

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES
Ang Bangkong May Damdaming-Bayan
1598 M. H. del Pilar corner Dr. J. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila
Tel. Nos. 522-0000; 526-0100 connecting all departments

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Land Bank of the Philippines invites interested suppliers who are (a) duly licensed Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships; or (b) 60% Filipino owned partnerships/corporations; or (c) two or more suppliers forming into joint ventures jointly and severally liable; or (d) cooperatives duly registered with the CDA; with largest single contract, similar to the items for bid, for the last 2 years, at least equal to 50% of the approved budget; and with Net Financial Contracting Capacity (NFCC) at least equal to the approved budget, to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following items:

ITB No.	Item / Description	Approved Budget	Source of Funds
2005-094	500,000 pcs. ATM Plastic Cards (E.A.S.Y. Cards) "HICO" (High Coercivity)	P 2,226,000.00	LBP Funds
2005-100	9,500 bdls. BIR Tax Payment Deposit Slip	2,375,000.00	LBP Funds
	22,666 bdls. Cash Deposit Slip	660,500.00	
	3,676 sets Labelled Divider for Commercial Loan	127,185.00	
	4,625 bdls. Peso Bill Strap	161,875.00	
	1,730 bdls. Mini Clearing Envelope	648,750.00	
	272 bxs. Mailing Envelope with logo, Legal Size	350,000.00	
	5,480 bdls. CB Clearing Envelope	634,000.00	
	2,932 bxs. Mailing Envelope with logo	743,000.00	
	1,805 bdls. Savings Signature Card with Logo	242,000.00	
	1,668 rms. Bond Paper with logo, Letterhead	315,000.00	
2005-108	1 lot Supply of supervision, labor, materials, tools, chemicals and equipment for the preventive maintenance of AC System and components at various LANDBANK Metro Manila Branches for two (2) years effective upon signing of a formal Service/Maintenance Contract	4,100,000.00	LBP Funds
2005-109	1 lot Three (3) Years Janitorial and Sanitation Services for LANDBANK Plaza and other Satellite Offices for the period July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2008.	43,860,000.00	LBP Funds

Bidding of the above requirements is scheduled on **May 11, 2005 at 1:00 p.m.** and the Bid Documents may be obtained from the Procurement Division of the General Services Department, 25th Floor, LANDBANK Plaza, M. H. del Pilar corner Dr. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila, **upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P1,000.00 for ITB Nos. 2005-094, 2005-100 and 2005-108 and P5,000.00 for ITB No. 2005-109.**

Interested suppliers are requested to attend the Pre-Bid Conference scheduled on **April 28 and 29, 2005** at the 25th Floor, Conference Room, LANDBANK Plaza, Malate, Manila.

All particulars relative to the Qualification/Eligibility, Bid Bond, Performance Bond, Pre-bid Conference, Bid Evaluation and Award of Contract shall be governed by the provisions of RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

Only those bidders who comply with the Bank's requirements shall be eligible to participate in the bidding.

LANDBANK reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to declare the bidding a failure or waive any defect or informality and to accept bids as may be considered most advantageous to the Bank.

COMMITTEE ON BIDS AND AWARDS

(PDI – April 15 & 22, 2005)

BMHI
BCDA Management and Holdings, Inc.

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The BCDA Management & Holdings, Inc. (BMHI) invites interested contractors to submit application for eligibility and if found eligible to bid subsequently for the project stated below:

Contract Package Name and Location	Scope of Works	IAC Category and Classification	PCAB License Category	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)/Source of Funds	Project Duration
Construction of Pamayanang Diego Silang Commercial Complex	Construction of Commercial Complex facilities of steel, lumber & concrete materials combinations consisting of the following: Erection of Food & Basic Services Sections, Fish & Meat Sections, Dry Sections, Fruit & Vegetable Section & Men & Ladies Comfort Room. To Include Site Development & Landscaping	At least medium "A" with an allowable range of contract cost of at least P5M to P25M	At least Category "B"	P6,500,000.00 BMHI Corporate Funds	120 Calendar days

Prospective contractors should have completed a similar contract for the above-mentioned project.

Applications for Eligibility (legal, technical and financial documents and statement) shall be evaluated using "PASS/FAIL" criteria set forth in the Instructions to Applicants for Eligibility and to Bid. Only Eligible Bidders shall be invited by BMHI to participate in the bidding. All bids equal to or lower than the ABC shall be evaluated based on the contractor's offer for the contract under bidding, and shall be subject to detailed evaluation. The lowest calculated responsive bidder shall undergo Post-qualification before the award of the Contract. Bid prices submitted higher than the ABC shall be rejected and returned outright

Application for Eligibility and Eligibility Forms will be available for issuance at the *Small Conference Room, Main Lobby BCDA Corporate Center, 2/F Bonifacio Technology Center 31st Street Corner 2nd Avenue, Crescent Park West, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City, Metro Manila* before 5:00 PM on April 15 – 28, 2005, upon submission of Letter of Intent (LOI) addressed to the BMHI Procurement Bids and Award Committee (BMHI-PBAC) Chairperson and payment of a non-refundable fee of **ONE THOUSAND PESOS (P1,000.00)**. Duly accomplished Application for Eligibility and Eligibility Forms shall be submitted not later than May 02, 2005, 5:00pm at the above-mentioned address.

Should you need any further information or clarification regarding the Project, you may get in touch with Engr. Renato D. Zaparita of the **BMHI - PBAC Technical Working Group** at tel. nos. 541-3160 or 816-6666 local

GLORIA GEORGINA DJ JOTA
BMHI - PBAC Chairperson

(PDI--April 15 & 22, 2005)

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

RESORT LEASE/ RENT

Pansol Hot Spring priv 7767507

LOAN & MORTGAGE

BUSINESS . DOCTOR 524-3197

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

Alexandra 3BR Poolview Prime location 412-1825

MAKATI

OFFICE SPACES FOR LEASE [illegible]

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE OR RENT

CONDO/TWNSE/ FOR SALE/RENT

MAKATI

Makati Manila RFO CONDO Sale / Rent 09176266516

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

HONDA

00 Accord A/T 540T 4361294 00&02 Civic M/T 365T&535T 925-4566 / 0918-4238154

'99 CRV MT 4X4 645T 7416160

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

MITSUBISHI

02M N Patrol Mtic 1,380 CCLOR Black Tel 8990215

NISSAN

01 Frontier 4x2 55Tkm M/T 0919-8707359 • 0919-3552515

TOYOTA

98'Taxi w/LN 09189355881

OTHER CAR BRANDS

Pajero Safari Trooper Terrano Surf Delica Largo Town Lite-Hi Ace Fargo Serena estima Elf Canter etc Call 9120647;09178342020

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

SPECIAL CARS

CHEVY CASSI A'01 50K-A1 CALL 9277623 CELFON 09167818917

BUSES/TRUCKS

ISUZU ELF '97
A1-All Power Dropside 9277623 / 0916-7818917

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

Van Buses Coaster 534-4003 (ofc) • 631-3496 (res)

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

CarsVans CoastarBus 422-9296

Cheap Van Rental 9330311

STAREX'05 MB100 9483535

P800/L3 9136710 / 4333682

TOYCO CARS
Udrive Widriver, All kinds: Cars, Vans, SUV • Mla.(02) 800-6595 802-3021 • Cebu (032) 345-1802

VANS•CARS•726-8388

ABC RENT A CAR
HI-ACE • STAREX L300 • CRV • REVO
HONDA • VIOS • ALTIS • LYNX • CRLA
MLA: 536-8822 • 303-9789
Q.C.: 426-2278 • 426-4084

WANTED TO BUY

BUYING USED CAR & SANGLA TEL. 899-0215

CAR LOAN

1.5% Car Loan 5344441

1.5% CARLOAN 373-6519

1.5% CARLOAN 788-0361

1.5% Easy Car Loan 4112547/48

1.5% Easy Car Loan 3748765

1.5% Easy Carloan 7815352/55

1.5% Fast Car Loan 6560140

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

1.5% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

2% w/o taking car 7880183-84

2% w/o Taking Car 7262780

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 3732081/82

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 8870490/95

2% w/out taking car 6567685

2% w/out taking car 5315577

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

BILLIARDS

26T New Compl Sr Imptd 7767507

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

YAMAHA GRAND & UPRIGHT
ELITE PIANO CENTER
Almost New:TERMS-7213124

PETS

DOG TRAINER 0919-3419012

Dog Trainer 0919-2050952

WANTED TO BUY

'PROFESSIONAL & CREDIBLE'
LOW 5% INTEREST
BUY • SELL • PAWN
SWISS WATCHES
AGENCIA de MAKATI-4587017
SECONDO AYALA CENTER-8940282
OPEN MONDAY TO SATURDAY

WE BUY AT HIGH PRICE
ROLEX
5646593 5897041
5633742 0917-8473744

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

WANTED TO BUY

A NAME YOU CAN TRUST!
MANILA WATCH EXCHANGE
BUY • SELL • PAWN
ROLEX+OTHERS
& OTHER SWISS WATCHES
DIAMONDS / JEWELRY
HI-APPRAISAL/FAST CASH
REPAIR/POLISH ANY WATCH
T#804-0484 • 834-2886

BUYING ROLEX
Other WATCHES, BEST PRICE
0917-8142309 • 7269687
7220433 • 4123543

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late ANTONIO B. ECHEVARRIA, covering properties with titles TCT No. RT-403057 (173108) located in Quezon City, and TCT No. T-9801 located in Tagbilaran, Bohol was extrajudicially settled by the surviving heirs, as recorded in the notarial registry of Atty. Mirasol Dychingco under Doc. No. 186, Page No. 19, Book No. 3, Series of 2005.
(PDI-April 15, 22 & 29, 2005)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is given that Wack Wack Golf & Country Club Stock Cert. No. 502 issued to Mercedes S. Tuazon have been lost. If no contest is received new certificate will be issued. (PDI-April 15, 22, 29, 2005)

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS W/ TRAVEL 7009211 09169368917

L88EDC has TRANSFORMED & CHANGED the lives of many professionals into GLOBAL ENTREPRENEURS. www.L88edc.com

NEED SIDELINE?
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LIFE/INVESTMENT/EDUC PENSION 0922-8089184

P2,000 lang, Sariling Biznis Jun 438-3309/0920-91129210

RTW Consign 09167940002

BUSINESS FOR SALE

• 2 units hot and cold SAM's Vendo Machine (very profitable)
• BEAUTY SALON (very good location and with existing customer- operational)
For Inquiries pls. call 6312648; 6319471 Look for Bebeth

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE

HARIS OFSET OPTR 4251450

Massuer 18-25yo 09204540607

FEMALE

FAMILY COOK
Can cook good Chinese dish Female not over 45y/o stay-in Please call Connie for appointment at 852-0033

Mid-Wife 22-26 Yrs Old Single Call Tel 413-7105

Secretary College Single Tel 7246346 / 7246862 Engr. Tan

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Quezon City

NOTICE OF YELLOW CORNGRAINS SALE THROUGH AUCTION

The National Food Authority (NFA) wishes to invite all corn users to participate in the sale of Yellow Corngrains (YGN) through Auction in the following areas at the Floor Prices indicated beside the respective volume:

Region	Location of Stocks	Volume (in bags)	Floor Price/kg
I	Ilocos Sur Warehouse	425	P 8.80
III	Bataan/Nueva Ecija Warehouses	657	P 8.30
IV	Mamburao/San Jose Mindoro Warehouses	11,997	P 8.20
X	Bukidnon Warehouses	2,334	P 8.40
	Wao, Lanao Sur Warehouses	11,471	P 8.20

Conditions of Auction:

1. Buyers shall be corn users who are registered with the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI). A Certification from the BAI-Livestock Division, Diliman, Quezon City as of December 31, 2004 shall be submitted as one of the requirements that the corn users will have to comply with.
2. Sale shall be on ex-NFA warehouse, no selection basis. Offerors shall be required to post a Bid Bond in the form of Cash, Manager's or Cashier's Check payable to NFA. The Bid Bond shall be equivalent to 10% of the value of the total volume bidded.

The Pre-Auction and Auction Conferences shall be conducted simultaneously at the concerned NFA Regional Offices with the following addresses and schedules until the whole volume for auction has been sold/exhausted:

NFA Region I
National Food Authority
San Juan, La Union
Tel. Nos. (072) 242-5907
(072) 242-5910

NFA Region III
National Food Authority
Maharlika Highway
Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija
Tel. Nos. (044) 463-1233,
(044) 600-0722

NFA Region IV
National Food Authority
Balagtas, Batangas City
Batangas
Tel. Nos. (043) 402-0428
(043) 402-1878

NFA Region X
National Food Authority
Bgy. Tablon, Baloy
Cagayan de Oro City
Tel. Nos. (088) 855-5936
(08822) 733460

Schedule:

Pre-Auction Conference	Time	Auction Conference	Time
April 27, 2005 May 05, 2005	10:00 AM 10:00 AM	April 29, 2005 May 09, 2005	10:00 AM 10:00 AM

Interested bidders may secure the Terms and Conditions starting April 27, 2005 at the respective aforementioned NFA Regional Offices. However, NFA Central Office will also accept bids on the scheduled time and date of Auction at the NFA Boardroom, Matimyas Building, 101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave., Quezon City. For inquiries, please contact Ms. Espie Tecson at Telephone Numbers 712-1572 and 712-1708.

Bid documents will be available April 27, 2005 to qualified bidders/offerors upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P1,000.00.

The National Food Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality thereof, and to accept only such bids that are advantageous to the Agency.

(Sgd.) CONRADO DL. IBAÑEZ
Assistant Administrator

(PDI – April 21 & 22, 2005)

DAR
Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LAND REFORM
Albay Provincial Office, Cabangan, Camalig, Albay
Operations Division
Tel. No. 484-21-91 & 826-05-29

NOTICE OF CARP COVERAGE

TO : **CONCERNED LANDOWNERS**
Province of Albay

Pursuant to Republic Act 6657 otherwise known as the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law of 1988, you are hereby notified that the landholdings herein listed below are now covered under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program of the government.

	Landowner	Title/Lot No.	Area (has.)	Location
1.	Evelyn Barbin	T-67033/1779	2.2920	Amtic, Ligao City
2.	Evelyn Barbin	T-67041/1781	7.8365	Amtic, Ligao City
3.	Evelyn Barbin	T-67040/1776	2.5684	Amtic, Ligao City
4.	Evelyn Barbin	T-67034/1782	0.4563	Amtic, Ligao City
5.	Evelyn Barbin	T-67041/1781	7.8365	Amtic, Ligao City
6.	Fausto Rubio/Estela Arviso	O-1191/6714-D	18.0000	Calburawan, Ligao City
7.	Hrs. of Manuela Raneses	T-46150/12	9.8905	Busay, Ligao City
8.	INTERBANK	T-72230/6577	9.8982	Maonon, Ligao City
9.	Evelyn Barbin	T-67039/1784	1.4942	Amtic, Ligao City
10.	Mae Lomeda	Lot 68	7.5727	Balogo, Oas
11.	Carmen Rabacio	Lot 13561	7.6652	Balogo, Oas
12.	Victor Riñon	Lot 12993	7.5922	Balogo, Oas
13.	Salvador Guariña	T-37738/5330	17.9312	Lomacao, Guinobatan
14.	Capital Insurance & Surety Co. Inc.	T-12005/3844-B, C	1.6070/0.2209	Baligang, Camalig
15.	– do –	T-12002/203	1.2093	Taloto, Camalig
16.	– do –	T-12007/4170	2.2484	Bantonan, Camalig
17.	– do –	T-12003/5705	0.4425	Gapo/Tinago, Camalig
18.	Gerardo Ralla & Pablo Ralla	T-71268/2500-D	23.7458	Bonga, Ligao City
19.	Salvador del Rosario, et al.	T-67450/4715-E	0.1242	Allang, Ligao City
20	Felina Calleja & Flora O. Los Baños	T-1091/4765	2.1545	Muladbucad Pequeño, Guinobatan

Any opposition regarding said coverage, the concerned landowners may file their protest or petition to this office within thirty (30) days from the date of publication.

This notice is in accordance with Section 13 of DAR Administration Order No. 06, series of 2000.

(Sgd.) SALVE C. TONGCO
OIC PARO II

(PDI – April 22, 2005)

AUCTION

www.henrybutcher.com

SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION

At.: Henry Butcher Auction Center - Hilon Cmpd., Bo. Mayapa, Canlubang, Laguna
ON: TUESDAY 26TH APRIL 2005 - 10:30AM SHARP

MOTOR VEHICLES; GENERATING SETS; ELECTRICALS; OFFICE FURNITURE & EQUIPMENT; POWER TOOLS/HAND TOOLS; MISCELLANEOUS, ETC.

MOTOR VEHICLES - FORD RANGER XL (2000) 4-Door Pick-up
GENERATING SETS - AIRMAN SDG60S 60 kva Silent Type Diesel Generator; AIRMAN SDG45S 45 kva Silent Type Diesel Generator; DENYO 25 kva Brushless AC Diesel Generator; DENYO 280SS Welder/Generator; SHIN KOBE 6000SL 7.8 kva Air Cooled Diesel Generator; SHIN KOBE 5000 SL Air-Cooled Diesel Generator,
ELECTRICALS - HITACHI Explosion Proof Differential Pressure Transmitters; STATIC O RING Explosion Proof Pressure Switches; HARTMAN & BRAUN Pressure Switches; FOXBORO Pressure Transmitters; MITSUBISHI NF800-S 800 Amp Circuit Breakers; LUCON Dimmer Switches; MEIKOSHA Power Outlets; PHILIPS Yard Lamps; Communication Cables; etc.
OFFICE FURNITURE & EQUIPMENT - SYSTEM 5 FREIBERG Ergonomic Work Stations/Modular Partitions; UB Mobile Pedestal Drawers; High-Back Executive Chairs, Clerical Swivel Chairs; Wooden Office Tables; Computer Desks; 4-Drawer Steel Filing Cabinets, MOSSLER Wall-Mounted Mini Vault Doors; Steel Collapsible Rackings; Wooden Cabinets; etc.
POWER TOOLS/ HAND TOOLS - MAKITA Band Saw; MILTON Table Saw; Cut-Off Saws; 10-Ton Hydraulic Body Frame Repair Kits; Drill Press; DAIHATSU Welding Machines; 300 kg Capacity Electric Hoist; VESPA Mini Air Compressor, HURRICANE Angle Grinders; HART 09EIODOOOO Communicator, ROSEMOUNT Loop Validator; Vernier Calipers; etc.
MISCELLANEOUS - CHILDERS Coin Counter Machines; MACARCO Oil Pumps; IGLOO Car Coolers; Wooden Entrance Doors; Clay Planter Pots; Pneumatic Gauges; Bunny Shoes; INGERSOLL-RAND Refrigerated Compressed Air Dryer; Toilet Bowls; etc.

On View: Monday 25th April 2005 - 9am to 5pm & morning of sale day
Refundable Deposit: Php10,000 (upon registration)
Please bring valid ID to be presented during registration
For further information please contact Carol Cosca at Tel: 049 834 6541
Email: carol.cosca@henrybutcher.com

GoIndustry Henry Butcher
HENRY BUTCHER INTERNATIONAL PHILIPPINES INC.
Rm 102 Jolliland Bldg., 670 Edsa, Pasay City, Philippines
Tel No.: +(63-2) 852-2910 * 11 Fax No.: +(63-2) 831-8507
E-mail: manila@henrybutcher.com
Website: www.henrybutcher.com/www.goindustry.com

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

FEMALE

SALES PROMO GIRLS
White to Fair Complexion FOR Beauty Products 7248781 7272690

MALE/FEMALE

10 Female English Teachers, w /Call Ctr exp 80-100/hr 4 hrs David 0919-7247738

BSP•BSN•PT•MT
Any Allied Health Grads up to P45T/ Mo! 8927828

OFFICE STAFF (INVESTIGATORS) OR 8071130 TRISHA

BMHI
BCDA Management and Holdings, Inc.

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The BCDA Management & Holdings, Inc. (BMHI) invites interested contractors to submit application for eligibility, and if found eligible to bid subsequently for the project stated below:

Contract Package Name and Location	Scope of Works	IAC Category and Classification	PCAB License Category	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)/Source of Funds	Project Duration
Construction of Pamayanang Diego Silang Multi Purpose Hall	Erection of Structural steel Multi Purpose Hall Constructed of Steel & Concrete material combination with reinforced concrete foundation	At least small "B" with an allowable range of contract cost of at least P3M above	At least Category "C" & "D"	P3,500,00.00 BMHI Corporate Funds	120 Calendar days

Prospective contractors should have completed a similar contract for the above-mentioned project.

Applications for Eligibility (legal, technical and financial documents and statement) shall be evaluated using "PASS/FAIL" criteria set forth in the Instructions to Applicants for Eligibility and to Bid. Only Eligible Bidders shall be invited by BMHI to participate in the bidding. All bids equal to or lower than the ABC shall be evaluated based on the contractor's offer for the Contract under bidding, and shall be subject to detailed evaluation. The lowest calculated responsive bidder shall undergo Post-qualification before the award of the Contract. Bid prices submitted higher than the ABC shall be rejected and returned outright.

Application for Eligibility and Eligibility Forms will be available for issuance at the *Small Conference Room, Main Lobby BCDA Corporate Center, 2/F Bonifacio Technology Center 31st Street Corner 2nd Avenue, Crescent Park West, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City, Metro Manila* before 5:00 PM on April 15 – 28, 2005, upon submission of Letter of Intent (LOI) addressed to the BMHI Procurement Bids and Award Committee (BMHI-PBAC) Chairperson and payment of a non-refundable fee of FIVE HUNDRED PESOS (P500.00). Duly accomplished Application for Eligibility and Eligibility Forms shall be submitted not later than May 02, 2005, 5:00pm at the above-mentioned address.

Should you need any further information or clarification regarding the Project, you may get in touch with Engr. Antonio Estrada of the PBAC – BMHI Technical Working Group at telephone number 541-3160.

GLORIA GEORGINA DJ JOTA
BMHI - PBAC Chairperson

(PDI--April 15 & 22, 2005)

POEA 24-HR HOTLINES – 722-1144 • 722-1155

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Maynila, Pilipinas

BID AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS (BSP) invites Consultants to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid for the Construction Management Consultancy Services for the following proposed projects. The bid packages with the corresponding Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) are as follows:

	Project Name	ABC
1.0	Proposed BSP Branch Buildings in Legazpi and Naga	P 4.42M
2.0	Proposed BSP Branch Building in Tuguegarao	P 2.96M

The scope of Construction Management work includes among others quantity surveying services, preparation of detailed estimates, value engineering, full construction management and supervision for the proposed BSP branch buildings as specified in the Terms of Reference.

The Minimum eligibility requirements are as follows:

1.0 The firm must have been in operation for the last fifteen (15) years (reckoned from the date of the first advertisement/posting of this Invitation) engaging in the lawful practice of the type of consulting services called for in this Invitation.

2.0 The firm must have rendered within the last ten (10) years (reckoned from the date of the first advertisement/posting of this Invitation) Construction Management consultancy services for at least five (5) completed new construction projects of similar nature/magnitude/complexity as the proposed BSP projects and must be able to submit a certification of satisfactory performance for the client for at least three (3) of the required five (5) projects.

3.0 The principal or Managing Officer must be a Registered Architect or Engineer with at least fifteen (15) years experience in actual construction work and construction management.

4.0 The Project Manager for the projects must be a registered Architect or Civil Engineer with minimum fifteen (15) years experience in actual construction work five (5) years of which experience in construction management.

5.0 The Resident Construction Management Team should at least be Registered Architects/ Engineers with a minimum ten (10) years combined design/construction management and construction experience where the Construction Management experience should at least be five (5) years. The minimum number required for the team should at least be three.

6.0 The firm (partnership/corporation/joint venture) must be at least 60% owned by a Filipino citizen.

7.0 In case of a joint venture, a valid joint venture agreement shall be required. The joint venture must have rendered construction management consultancy services for at least two (2) completed projects of similar magnitude as the proposed BSP project.

The quality-cost based evaluation procedure stipulated in the Implementing Rules and Regulations of RA No. 9184 shall be adopted for this consultancy service requirement.

Eligibility documents may be obtained from the BAC Secretariat on **25 April to 02 May 2005** for a non-refundable fee of P200.00, Room 204, 2nd Floor, Five Storey Building at the BSP Main Complex A. Mabini cor. P. Ocampo Streets, Manila and must be submitted duly accomplished to the same office not later than 4:30 p.m. on **06 May 2005**.

The provisions of Republic Act No. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations relative to the bidding and award of contract shall apply.

BSP reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive defect or any formality therein, or accept such bid or award any part thereof to any consultant/s whose bid/s is/are evaluated to be most advantageous to BSP. Furthermore, BSP is not obliged to compensate/indemnify the consultant for any expenses or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bid nor does it guarantee that an award of contract will be made.

(Sgd.) JUAN DE ZUÑIGA, Jr.
Chairman

(PDI – April 22 & 29, 2005)

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
(Head Office)

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) invites interested general building contractors with current Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) License to apply for eligibility and to bid and if later found eligible to bid for the project described below:

Project Title		Proposed Indoor Firing Range at the BSP Main Complex
Scope of Work		Furnishing of all materials, labor, tools, equipment, technical supervision and other services and performing all operations necessary for the completion of the proposed construction of **2-storey firing range building** all in accordance with the approved plans and specifications and subject to the terms and conditions of the contract.
Project Location	:	A. Mabini cor. P. Ocampo St., Manila
Approved Budget	:	Forty Six Million Pesos (P46,000,000.00)
Source of Funding	:	Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Contract Duration	:	One Hundred Eighty (180) calendar days
Minimum Requirement (Criteria)		
PCAB License	:	Registration Particulars of at least "Medium A" (Building and Industrial Plant)
Contractor's Construction Experience	:	Should have completed within the last five (5) years (2000 to present) at least three (3) projects involving construction of indoor firing range or new construction and/or general office renovation works involving civil, plumbing, finishing, electrical and HVAC works or similar projects one of which costs not less than Twenty Three Million Pesos (P23,000,000.00)
Certification of Satisfactory Performance		Should be able to submit affidavit of satisfactory performance from the client of the declared completed similar projects.
Net Financial Contracting Capacity		At least Forty Six Million Pesos (P46,000,000.00) computed as 10 x (current asset less current liabilities) minus (value of all on-going contracts including awarded yet to be started)
Credit Line or Cash Deposit Certificate		At least Four Million Six Hundred Thousand Pesos (P4,600,000.00)
Eligibility Statement Forms		
Cost of Forms		Two Hundred Pesos per set (P200.00/set)
Date of Issuance		April 25 to May 02, 2005 / 9:00 A.M. to 12 NN
Deadline of Submission		May 06, 2005 / 4:30 P.M.
Notice of Eligibility / Ineligibility		
Date of Issuance		May 26, 2005 / 9:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.
Bid / Tender Documents Issuance		Shall be issued only to eligible contractors upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Ten Thousand Pesos (P10,000.00)
Date of Issuance		May 27 to 30, 2005 / 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 NN
Pre-Bid Conference		
Date and Time		June 03, 2005 / 10:00 AM
Venue		MR2A, 2nd Floor, BSP Main Complex, A. Mabini cor. P. Ocampo St., Manila
Submission and Opening of Bids		
Deadline of Submission		June 29, 2005 / 10:00 AM.

For inquiries, please call BAC Secretariat – telephone no. 524-7011 local 3143.

The venue for the issuance and submission of accomplished eligibility statements and bid documents is at the BAC Secretariat, Room 204, 2nd Floor – Five Storey Building, BSP Main Complex, A. Mabini cor. P. Ocampo St., Manila, 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 nn and 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The schedule for issuance of notice of eligibility/ineligibility up to the deadline of submission of bids may be subject to change.

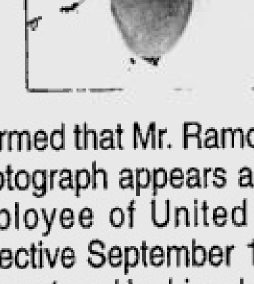
The provisions of Republic Act No. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations shall govern relative to the bidding and award of contract including its implementation.

BSP reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any defect or formality therein, or accept such bid or award any part thereof to any contractor/s whose bid/s is/are evaluated to be most advantageous to BSP. Furthermore, BSP is not obliged to compensate/indemnify the contractor for any expenses or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award of contract will be made.

(Sgd.) JUAN DE ZUÑIGA, JR.
Chairman

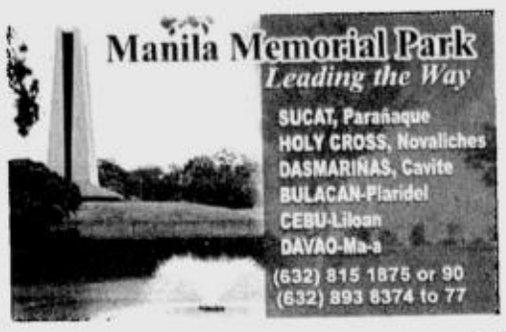
(PDI–April 22 & 29, 2005)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



Please be informed that Mr. Ramon "Jun" L. Gabriel Jr., whose photograph appears above, has ceased to be an employee of United Overseas Bank Philippines effective September 15, 2004. Any and all transactions entered by him shall not be honored by UOBP after said date. You may transact with Messrs. Samuel Basiao (tel. # 811-5697) or Godofredo Martinez (tel. # 811-5797).

(PDI–April 22 & 24, 2005)



OBITUARIES

PHILIPPINE COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS • 1963 •

THE BOARD OF REGENTS
of the
PHILIPPINE COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS

announces with deep regret
the passing away of its

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Vicente Jose Y. Velez, M.D., FPCP

June 19, 1948 - April 20, 2005

His remains lie in state at the Ipil Room, Funeraria Paz
Manila Memorial Park; Sucat, Parañaque.

In lieu of flowers, donations will be highly appreciated.
For inquiries, please contact the PCP Secretariat at 910-2252.

In loving memory of

Jerson D. Morales

Loving son, faithful friend

Born on October 13, 1976 and died on March 5, 2005
at the age of 28.

His remains lie in state at the
Dahlia Room of Funeraria Perlas.
Interment will be on May 4, 2005, 9 a.m.
at Evergreen Memorial Gardens.

His whole family, led by mother Melissa *and father* Benedicto,
wish to express their deepest appreciation to all those who share in their sorrow.

This is an INQuest! Answerable game clue

For previous chapters & clues, log on to www.inquestor.com
To answer the question in Chapter 10, text INQ Q<question #> <answer> (Ex: INQ Q1 E) to 2320 for Globe/Touch Mobile and Sun Cellular subscribers or 309 for Smart/Addict/Talk 'N Text subscribers. Maximum of 3 text answers per question. Send in your answers by April 23 to qualify for the preliminary draw on April 25.
REGISTER NOW FOR FREE! Text INQ Reg <full name>*<complete address>*<age>*<gender> (Ex: INQ Reg Juan dela Cruz*1234 Ortigas Ave Pasig*34*M). Send to 2320 for Globe/Touch Mobile and Sun Cellular subscribers or 309 for Smart/Addict/Talk 'N Text subscribers.

EDGARDO SEVALLA VELILLA

(September 5, 1949 – April 20, 2005)

Peacefully joined his Creator on April 20, 2005.

His loving wife **Telly Placino**; his daughters, **Trina, Pamy, Bea** and **Nikka**; his parents, **Leogardo** (†) and **Corazon**; his siblings, **Sony** and **Ben Formoso, Joey** and **Mayette Gonzales, Millie** and **Frank Scholl, Marietes** and **Freddie Stelton, Yssa, Lulu, Leo** and **Guia Alzate**; his in laws, **Josue** (†) and **Narcisa Placino, Robbie** and **Marylou Placino, Vicky** and **Mike Quiray, Freddie** and **Aly Placino**; nephews, nieces and other relatives and friends request for prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Holy Family Chapel of the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Shrine, New Manila, Quezon City.

Interment will be after the 2:00 p.m. Mass on Saturday, April 23, 2005, at the Our Lady of Mount Carmel crypt.

"Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."
Matthew 11:28

"We know that God raised the Lord Jesus from death. He will raise us to life with Jesus. He will present us, along with you, to God."
2 Corinthians 4:14

Dearly Beloved

JUANITO CHAN ONG

(June 27, 1939 – April 19, 2005)
of the City of Manila
widow of Mrs. LUCIA LEE ONG

Peacefully joined our Lord at the age of 66.

His bereaved children **Jason** and **Ann Gianinna, Jerry, Jersey** and **Leanne Jane** request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the La Funeraria Paz
in Araneta Ave., Quezon City.

Interment will be at the Chinese Crematory, City of Manila
on April 24, 2005 at 9:00 a.m.

"Well the day disguise the night,
the night give up the day"
Paul Onassis

In Memory of our beloved brother

ONASSIS WAYNE PAUL PELEO PAREDES

of Omfeg, Bontoc, Mountain Province
and Gamay, Northern Samar

who peacefully joined our Creator on April 7, 2005
at the tender age of seventeen (17).

From your loving Dad and Mama, brothers and sisters, grandparents **John** and **Petra, Ray** and **Zeny, John Jr.** and **Nora, Lilian** and **Mike May, Grail, Rod, Tyrone, Mark, Judy,** and **Marvin.**

Our sincerest thanks to all those who shared their sympathy and support during our time of grief and sorrow.

CLASSIFIEDS

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Finance
BUREAU OF CUSTOMS
Collection District II - B
MANILA INTERNATIONAL CONTAINER PORT

April 19, 2005

NOTICE OF NEGOTIATED SALE

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 2601 to 2610 of the TCCP, as amended, in relation to CMO 5-2003 dated March 17, 2003, and CMO 18-2003 dated 25 July 2003, there will be a Negotiated Sale to be conducted by this Port on **May 4, 2005 at 2:30 P.M.**, to be held at the 2nd Floor, MICP Building, North Harbor, Isla Puting Bato, Tondo, Manila, the herein described articles in lot. Said articles shall be available for viewing on **May 3, 2005.**

Lot No. 112-04	SINDOPHIL/UPPER CITY MULTIMODAL FORWARDERS/ TMS SHIP AGENCIES/ METROPOLITAN BANK A.P. Nos. 04-081, 04-083, 04-084 04-085, 04-086, 2001-30, 2-001-65, 2002-03 AND 2003-22 3RD Advertisement 'As is Where is'	41 x 20' Contrs. Granite/Marble Blocks and Slabs approx. 5.66 CBM/Container Location: ICTSI CY, Container Nos.: ITLU-8210220, EACU-4181871, MAEU-2944408, MAEU-2952152, MOGU-2501875, TTNU-2654349, PCIU-3310062, TEXU-2345269, PCIU-3204950, PCIU-3250338, KNLU-2933942, ACTU-1043833, GATU-0628758, GATU-0058378, EMCU-3010798, EISU-4377168, EISU-3516953, PCIU-3306851, PCIU-3248829, PCIU-3377261, PCIU-3365328, GLDU-0317742, INBU-3464890, GLDU-0180407, INBU-3549672, INBU-3546342, TRLU-2797117, TEXU-2022327, TRLU-3969746, GATU-0219064, EISU-3348181, TEXU-3562274, LTIU-2496753, LTIU-2497108, UGMU-8480691, CYLU-2219360, MLCU-2451540, NYKU-2223790, TTNU-2613020, CBHU-0870601 and CBHU-0273814.
LAST FLOOR PRICE: Php10,960,176.21		

Basic Guidelines:
1. File the duly accomplished Registration Form (name, address, TIN and other relevant circumstances to be indicated).
2. Php2,000.00 Registration Fee (Non-Refundable).
3. Php20,000.00 Cash Bond (Refundable).
4. For a successful negotiated sale, at least three offers shall be tendered in sealed envelopes and shall be opened in public by the Auction Committee in the presence of the a COA representative at a time, date and place specified in the Notice of Negotiated Sale.
5. The highest offer from the sealed bids shall serve as the starting amount in the open negotiation that follows among the participants. Only those who submitted sealed bids for the negotiated sale shall be admitted as participants in the open negotiation.
6. The highest offer from among the participants in the open negotiation, which shall in no way be lower than the starting amount, shall immediately be announced as the winning offer, and thereafter referred to the Commissioner of Customs and the Secretary of Finance for approval. The announcement of the winning offer by the Auction Committee shall serve to conclude the negotiated sale, after which no other offer shall be considered.
7. A guarantee deposit in cash or manager's check equivalent to 20% of the highest offer shall be paid prior to its referral for the Commissioner's approval. Payment by Cashier's/Manager's Checks to the BOC/MICP shall bear the following:
   a. Pay to the order of Land Bank of the Philippines - BOC MICP E.O.
   b. For credit of the Bureau of Customs.
   c. For the account of:
   _____ Bidder
8. An additional thirty percent (30%) of the offer shall be paid by the party concerned within forty-eight (48) hours from receipt of the notice from ACDD, informing the concerned party of the DOF Secretary's approval. The remaining fifty percent (50%) shall be paid within seven (7) calendar days there from under pain of forfeiture of the intial payments.
9. The provisions of Sec. III (8) of CMO-5-2003 hereof, shall be applied in case of a failed negotiated sale or when the price offer is rejected by the Commissioner of Customs or the Secretary of Finance.

For further details, please contact Mr. Isidro A. Pra, Chief, Auction & Cargo Disposal Division, MICP, Tel. No. 247-09-77.

(Sgd.) Atty. FELIPE A. BARTOLOME, CESO V
District Collector of Customs

(PDI – April 22, 2005)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Region XII - Tacurong City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

(FOR THE SUPPLY OF SECURITY SERVICES FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2005)

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA) Region XII, Tacurong City invites Security Agencies duly registered with Philippine National Police – Security Agencies and Guards Supervision Division (PNP-SAGSD) to apply for eligibility and if found eligible to bid for the contract of:

PROJECT/ CONTRACT	SITE	BUDGET APPROVED	*NO. OF GUARDS
1. Security Service Contract	Kidapawan City and Cotabato Province	P 4,259,574.00	30
2. Security Service Contract	Tacurong City and Sultan Kudarat Province	P 1,703,829.60	12
3. Security Service Contract	Southern Philippines Grains Complex (SPGC) Tacurong City	P 3,123,687.50	22

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES	DATE	TIME
Issuance of Bid/Tender Documents	April 26 - May 10, 2005	(8:30 AM - 4:00 PM)
Pre-Bidding Conference	May 10, 2005	(9:30 AM)
Submission of Bid/Tender Documents	May 31, 2005	(8:30 AM - 9:30 AM)
Opening of Bids/Tender Documents and Bid Proposal	May 31, 2005	(9:35 AM)

The VENUE of all activities stated above will be the Farmer's Training Center, NFA-SPGC Compound, Tacurong City.

Security Agencies may secure **APPLICATION FOR ELIGIBILITY FORMS AND BID/ TENDER DOCUMENTS** from the Regional Bids and Awards Committee (RBAC) Secretariat upon submission of a **Letter of Intent** and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of Php 5,000.00.

BID PROPOSAL FORMS may be available to Security Agencies at the RBAC Secretariat upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of Php 2,000.00 per project/contract. Security Agencies have the option to bid for any or all of the projects stated above provided that the amount of Largest Single Security Services Contract Completed for the past three (3) years is at least fifty percent (50%) of the Approved Budget for the contract to be bidded, adjusted to the current price.

The Source of Funds for these projects is under the General Appropriation Funds of the Philippine Government.

The criteria in determining the eligibility of the Security Agency is the pass/fail criteria as stated in the Preliminary Examination of bids in R.A. 9184 subject to post qualification. The Lowest Calculated Responsive Bid Method will be used in the evaluation of bid.

The RBAC Secretariat can be contacted at Tel. No. (064) 200-3803 / 384-1247, Fax No. (064) 200-3807. Contact persons are: Ms. Ma. Cristina O. Piña/Mr. Leonardo R Robles, Jr.

The NFA reserves the right to accept or reject any and or all bids thereof, waive any formalities found therein or to accept or reject any or to award to any contractor whose bids is considered most advantageous to the NFA and/or the government.

(Sgd.) EDGAR S. BENTULAN
Regional Manager

(PDI - April 22 & 29, 2005)

BUKIDNON FORESTS INCORPORATED
(A Subsidiary of the Natural Resources Development Corporation
Assisted by the New Zealand Government
BFI Compound, Sumpong, Malaybalay City, Bukidnon

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

ITB NO. 009

Bukidnon Forests Incorporated (BFI) invites interested contractors to apply for Eligibility and if Subsequently found eligible, to bid for various projects:

NAME OF PROJECT : HARVESTING OPERATIONS – YARDING & SKIDDING, LOADING, SEGREGATION AND FILING OF BENGUET PINE LOGS
LOCATION/END USER, : BFI OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT Tigbawan, Incalbog, Can-ayan, Malaybalay City
SOURCE OF FUND : BFI REVENUES
APPROVED BUDGET COST : P5,055,000.00
PROJECT DESCRIPTION : Contract of Services – Logging Equipment
SCOPE OF WORK : 10,000 cu.m. Yarding & Skidding – ABC P1,800,000.00
21,000 cu.m. Loading – ABC P2,100,000.00
21,000 cu.m. Segregation & Filing – ABC P1,155,000.00

MINIMUM EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENT	OWNED	LEASED	TOTAL
Loader	3	2	5
Wrecker	3	2	5

Pre Bid Conference & Site Inspection	April 22, 2005 at 9:00 a.m.
Issuance of Eligibility & Bid Document	April 22, 2005
Dropping of Bids	May 5, 2005 at 1:30 p.m.
Opening of Bids	May 5, 2005 at 2:00 p.m. BFI Training Center, BFI Cmpd., Sumpong, Malaybalay City

Qualified bidder/suppliers may obtain bid documents from the BAC Secretariat upon payment of non-refundable amount of P2,000.00 per set. For more information, please inquire at the BFI Office, Sumpong, Malaybalay City.

All particulars relative to Eligibility, Bid Documents, Procedures and Purchase Order shall be governed by the provisions of R.A. 9184 providing rules and regulation governing goods and infrastructure projects.

The BFI reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any minor defect therein and accept the offer most advantageous to BFI.

(Sgd.) DENNIS N. RAMIREZ
Research & Support Services Manager
BAC Chairman

(PDI - April 15 & 22, 2005)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Be it known that there is an outstanding warrant of arrest for Mr. Jason R. Quintana of Centro Poblacion, Oas, Albay, whose picture appears below, that was issued by Branch 1, Regional Trial Court of Legaspi City in Criminal Case No. 10295 for Qualified Theft.

Please direct any information leading to his arrest or whereabouts to:

MR. FRANCISCO BACIERTO, JR.
Equitable PCI Tower 1,
corner dela Costa
and Makati Avenue, Makati City
Telephone Nos. 878-4425 or 840-7625

(PDI–April 22, 2005)

BMHI
BCDA Management and Holdings, Inc.

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The BCDA Management & Holdings, Incorporated (BMHI) invites all interested SUPPLIERS, MANUFACTURERS AND DISTRIBUTORS to bid for the SUPPLY, DELIVERY AND INSTALLATION of the following: Ten (10) Sets of **Desktop Computer**; Three (3) sets of **Laptop Computer**; One (1) set of **Computer Server**; Three (3) Units of **CD Writer**; Ten (10) Units of **Flat Bed Scanner**; Three (3) Units of **Computer Printer**; Ten (10) Units of **Uninterruptible Power Supply**; and One (1) Unit of **Multimedia Projector**. The Approved Budget for the project is *ONE MILLION NINE HUNDRED NINETY TWO THOUSAND PESOS & 00/100 (Php1,992,000.00)*.

The Bid Documents and Terms of Reference will be available for issuance at the *Small Conference Room, Main Lobby, BCDA Corporate Center, 2/F Bonifacio Technology Center, 31st Street corner 2nd Avenue, Crescent Park West, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, Metro Manila*, before **5:00 PM** from **April 25 to May 2, 2005**; upon submission of a Letter of Intent (LOI) addressed to the Chairperson of the BMHI Procurement, Bids and Awards Committee (BMHI-PBAC); and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of *ONE THOUSAND PESOS (Php1,000.00)*. The LOI should state the *Company's Name, Address* and *Contact Person* directly employed by the company.

For queries, clarifications and additional information, please call **Mr. Bryan S. Pabustan** of the BMHI-PBAC Technical Working Group at **816-6666 local 210.**

GLORIA GEORGINA DJ. JOTA
BMHI-PBAC Chairperson

(PDI–April 15 & 22, 2005)

SEND YOUR RESUMÉS INSTANTLY
VISIT US AT
www.jobmarketonline.com
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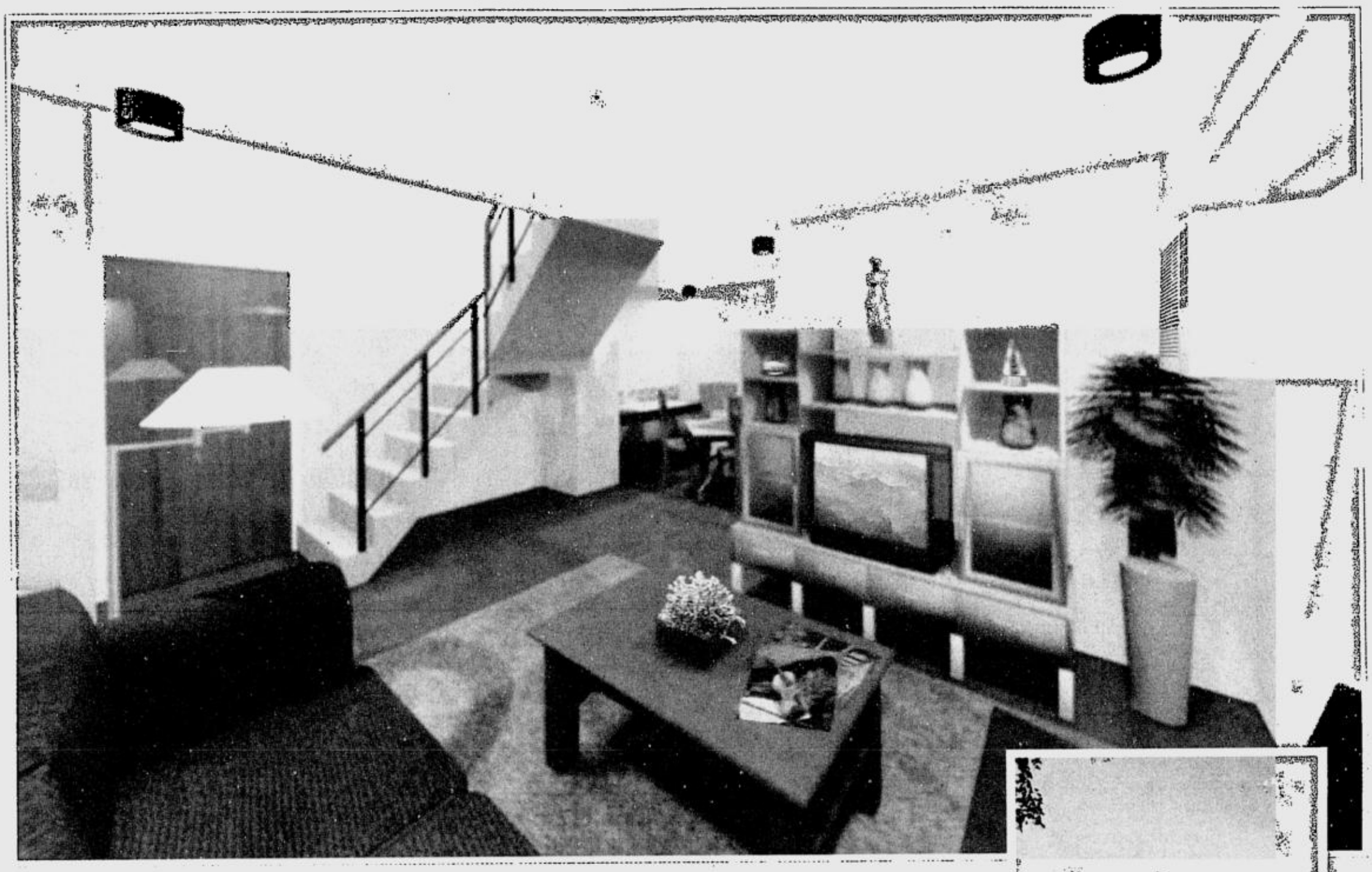
GATEWAY

Garden Heights

@ GATEWAY RESIDENCES
33-Storey Residential Condominium
EDSA corner Pioneer Street, Mandaluyong City
Beside Robinsons Place Pioneer Mall

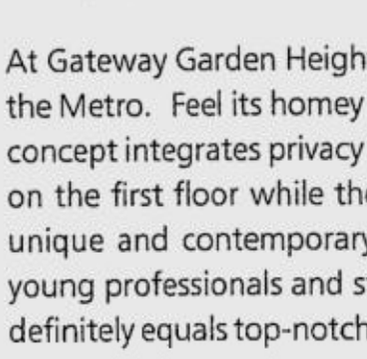
Two Floors are Better than One

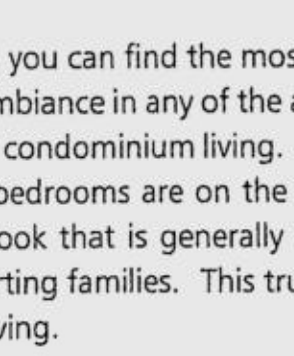


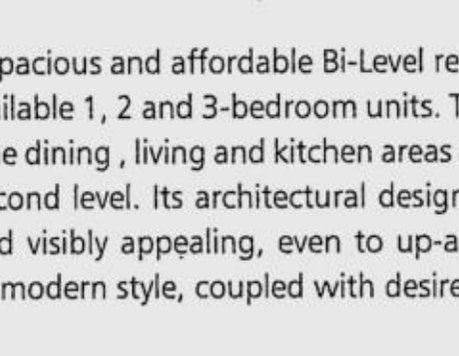
At Gateway Garden Heights, you can find the most spacious and affordable Bi-Level residences in the Metro. Feel its homey ambiance in any of the available 1, 2 and 3-bedroom units. The Bi-Level concept integrates privacy in condominium living. The dining , living and kitchen areas are located on the first floor while the bedrooms are on the second level. Its architectural design purveys a unique and contemporary look that is generally and visibly appealing, even to up-and-coming young professionals and starting families. This truly modern style, coupled with desired comfort, definitely equals top-notch living.

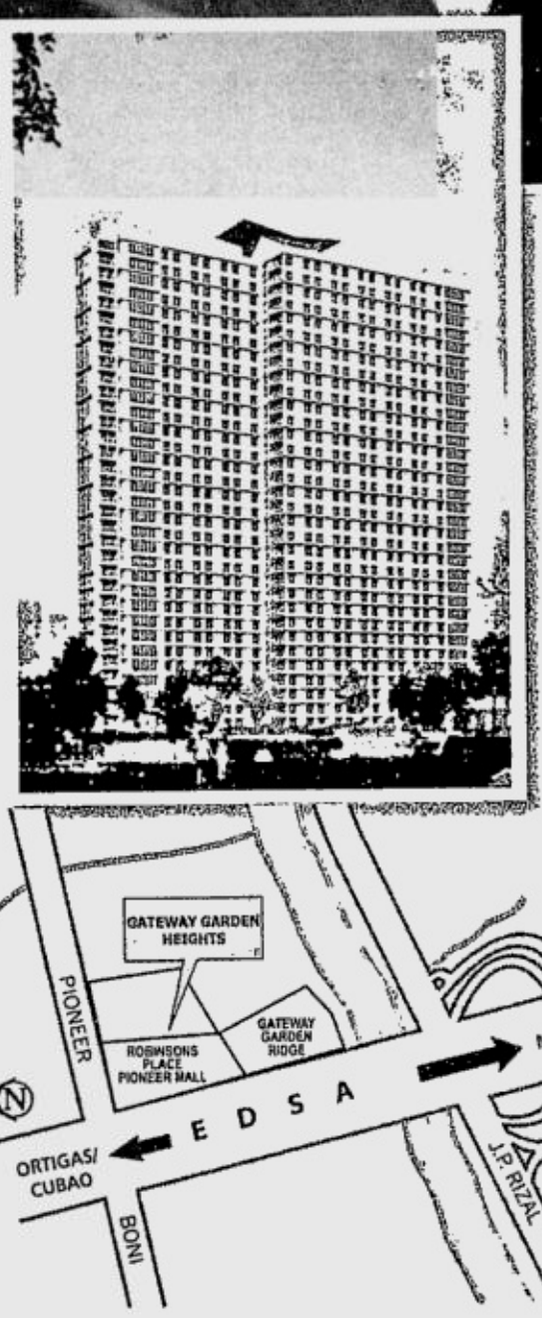
Outside the condominium is another kind of comfort. Gateway Garden Heights boasts of large landscaped garden, swimming pools, a jogging path, a playground, and even a fitness center. It is a few minutes away from the Makati and Ortigas central business districts, and is in close proximity to the efficient MRT Boni Station. It is a significant component of a mixed-use community with an array of retail and commercial establishments in the nearby Robinsons Place Pioneer Mall.

Comfort, convenience and privacy, redefining space like no other... you can find all these at the Gateway Garden Heights.









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STUDENTS CREATE IT-BASED IDEAS

Instead of getting a job, go for creating jobs

By Salve Duplito
INQ 7

ASK any seasoned entrepreneur how it is to find investors willing to give a start-up capital. The answer is it's possible but definitely not a walk in the park.

Five teams recently had the chance to pitch their business ideas, not just to any investor, but to the likes of HSBC chief Warner Manning, presidential daughter Luli Arroyo who is director for Strategic Development of the Foundation of IT Education and Development, RFM Corp. president Joey Concepcion, Asian Institute of Management president Roberto de Ocampo, and Philippine Daily Inquirer president and CEO Sandy Prieto-Romualdez.

It had all the ingredients of a major business presentation complete with the brilliant ideas and the hard to convince group (the judges). Except that the the presenters were students—five finalists from over 100 teams that vied for HSBC's Young IT Entrepreneur Awards, now on its second round in the Philippines.

The finalists were not spared from tough questions, corporate style. How else could HSBC fulfill the award's purpose of developing the youth to be, in Manning's words, "creative thinkers, intelligent risk-takers and innovative entrepreneurs"?

"If we are to continue to operate successfully in the Philippines, we need to ensure that we build a new generation of business leaders, who will change the landscape of Philippine enterprise for the better," stated Manning.

Retailing OPM

The top prize went to group A&K Corp.'s e-Musikero.com which pitched the idea of a website that would retail original Filipino music in MP3 format to homesick Filipinos in North America and ultimately, to any Filipino living overseas, for 99 cents.

Some may ask if the idea is really new. The three Ateneans comprising the group said they were surprised no one thought of the idea before. As it is, around 2.25 million Filipinos living in North America and Canada who are hungry for Pilita Corales songs, for example, have to buy the entire disc even if they like only one or two tracks, have the CD shipped from Manila for a hefty fee, or buy illegitimate copies from Kazaa, Napster and iMesh. And that is if these services have the songs they wanted.

The group argues its target market will not wince at paying 99 cents per track to get legitimate copies of OPM songs. The group's research showed Filipinos in North America and Canada can be a gold mine because: they have the cash, most are connected to the Internet, 30 percent fall under the age bracket of 13 to 30 that are most likely to be music enthusiasts. Assuming a conservative estimate that only 30 percent of this group downloads only two songs per month translates to a $3.7 million market, the group enthuses. The best part is the population is growing by 25 percent per year, the group said.

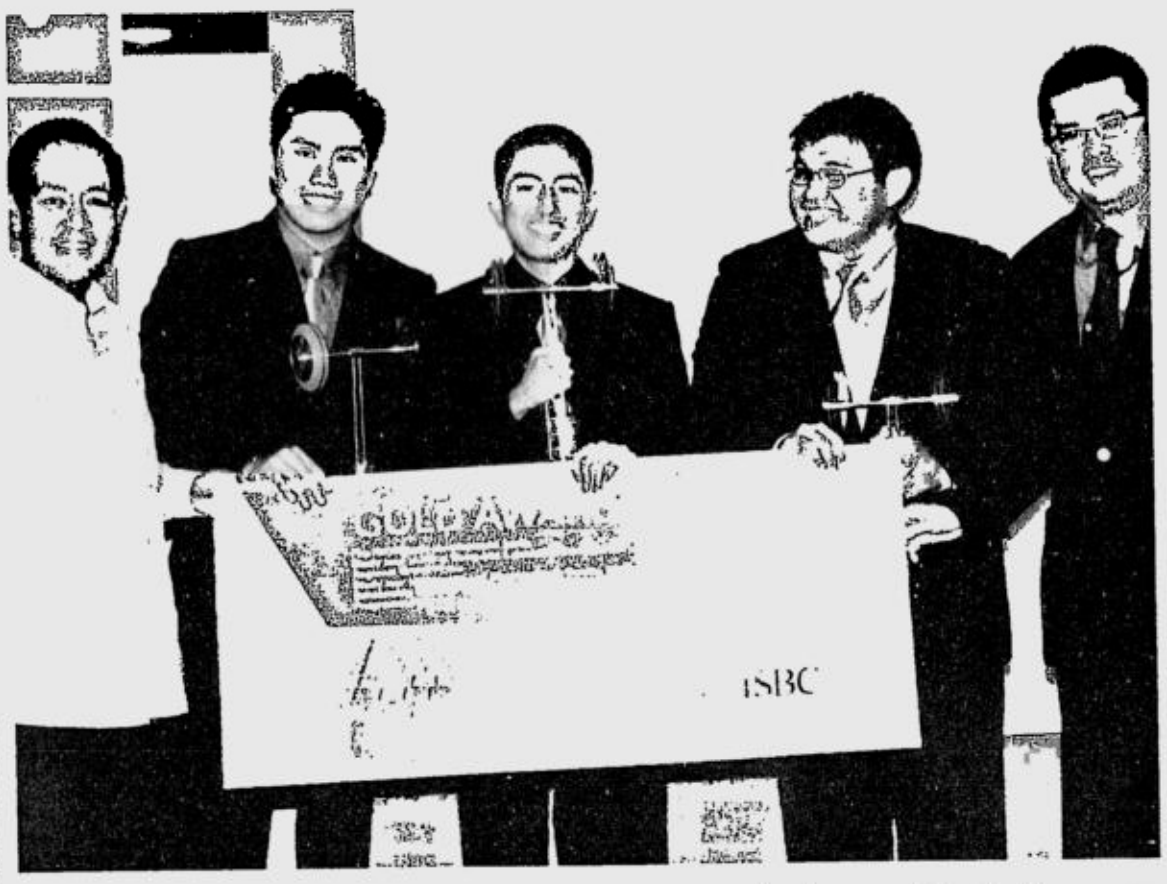
They are so gung-ho about the idea that they already obtained an agreement with the four biggest record companies—Warner Music, BMG Records, EMI and Sony Music. With only a P2.48 million estimated capital, the group expects to rake in P6.5 million in the first year and grow this by 217 percent to P20.5 million in the second. Not bad for a group of undergraduates.

Team leader Aaron Jarveen Ho said his group learned more from this experience than from any subject in school and made them even more serious about going into business rather than joining multinational companies after graduation.

"The shift in mentality from employment to entrepreneurship is stronger and more pronounced, especially among young people. As early as now, students are asking themselves what business can they go into, what new product can they create?" Ho said.

Filipinos have traditionally looked at employment in multinational companies as the way to success, a mindset that other more successful Asian countries like Singapore have already

INSTEAD/ B2-2



AIM president Roberto F. de Ocampo (left) and RFM Corp. president Joey Concepcion III with the Gold award winners: Aaron Ho, Alexis Ng and Karlo Mortel

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DOT Secretary Joseph "Ace" Durano (second from left) with (from right) Globe Telecom president and CEO Gerry Ablaza, head of product marketing Chinky Alcedo and head of corporate marketing Rita Nisperos

Globe international services supports IPU

GLOBE international services recently supported the government's efforts to promote international cooperation at the 112th congress of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU). Over 1,500 delegates from 145 countries convened in Manila recently. They were welcomed at the airport through the Meet and Assist program of the Department of Tourism (DOT) and Globe who feted the delegates with a cocktail reception at the Cultural Center of the Philippines. Afterward, they were treated to a cultural presentation featuring renowned groups and artists such as the Bayanihan Dance Company, Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra, Ramon Obusan Folkloric Group, and Ballet Philippines.

International travelers can stay connected while vacationing in the Philippines or abroad with Globe's international roaming, IDD, and international SMS and MMS. 24-hour assistance is also available through *188 Traveler's Guide, while *187 Traveler's Internet gives easy access to the worldwide Web while on the go.

Instead of getting . . .

From page B2-1

shrugged off as ineffective.

Poor economic and political environments cause Filipinos to go for the safer route of employment instead of taking calculated risks to develop their own product or service. Ho says, however, that the difficult economic and political environments are "things beyond our control that we just have to deal with."

"If you believe that the Philippines is going down, that we are getting nowhere, then you're on a dead end. You just have to believe in your business idea and give your best. After all, the millionaires right now started out with nothing," he said.

Ho and his team face a litmus test this week. Another Atenean is interested in buying the business plan, but they heard record bar Tower Records is also in the market for such a plan.

Customized travel packages

Darren de Jesus, team leader of second-prize winner e-Biyahero, said the entrepreneurship mentality is "just starting slowly" but that it is definitely catching up.

"There are still a lot of us who are looking for a job maybe for a year or two before we really get into business," De Jesus said. His group conceptualized a travel website that can sell customized travel packages, specifically targeting divers.

The third prize went to Team 21 Competent, which pitched the idea of creating a parking service that can be accessed via SMS or text. Any motorist in Manila's notorious traffic-filled streets would appreciate never being late for a meeting or movie date because he can't find parking, the group says. It will ease up traffic in busy malls and conserve fuel.

Assuming only eight individuals use ParkMe in a week, the group expects P23 million in revenues in one year alone, translating to a profit of P1 million.

Team leader Jor-el Soyangco said the need for such a service was obvious. The group is now discussing when and how they will put their business plan into action. Just like the other winners, Soyangco is confident the entrepreneurship mentality is catching up and young people will show how more Filipinos can rake in their first millions.

Getting chosen among the 100 teams mean these three groups received P100,000, P125,000 and P150,000 in cash, and a chance to interact with winners from Hong Kong, Malaysia and Thailand during the regional grand finals in HSBC's Asia-Pacific headquarters in Hong Kong in June 2005. Ho's group also won a six-month scholarship at AIM and a one-week study tour at the University of Washington in Seattle, USA.

And to think all three groups joined the contest just for fun.

WARNER Manning (left) and Sandy Prieto-Romualdez with the Bronze award winners: Jor-el Soyangco, Jenica Go and Johann Trinidad

LULI Macapagal-Arroyo (left) and Warner Manning with the silver award winners: Darren de Jesus, Crystal Lee and John Patrick Leguisma

Fitter Filipinos means fatter profits

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

IT MUST be the sight of those toned bodies on "Amazing Race" or the remote but beautiful places on "Lonely Planet."

Whatever the reason, the fact remains that more Filipinos are getting hooked on the outdoors, as proven by the rising occupancy of hotels and resorts that dot the countryside and growing membership of health clubs.

It helps that the Philippines has a wealth of destinations just waiting to be explored and appreciated. Filipinos today also want to do more than just sit behind a desk and go to the mall on weekends.

It is these Filipinos—from the weekend sports buffs to the serious outdoorsmen—that American company Columbia Sportswear Co. hopes to encourage to buy its line of products to suit their active lifestyle.

Columbia started in 1938 as a hat company. It evolved through the decades into a sports apparel firm that sells everything an adventurer needs to include in his gear.

Columbia brand manager Dino de Leon tells Business Friday the company came to the Philippines because it saw a need among active Filipinos for outdoor wear that can do much more than just plain cotton shirts.

Its performance line, for instance, features shirts, shorts and pants that immediately absorb moisture and block harmful ultraviolet rays—two major requirements of people perpetually under the sun.

Then there is its titanium line of jackets that are completely waterproof, yet allow moisture to evaporate, thus the wearer still feels comfortable even if he sweats buckets.

Mountaineers especially will appreciate this pricey product.

It also has a line of apparel for ardent fishermen. It includes jackets with many pockets, which also come with UV protection that is woven into the fabric itself, thus, will not come off.

De Leon, however, stresses Columbia is not out to serve only the hardcore mountaineers and outdoorsmen.

He says it also offers a line of products that suit the needs of ordinary travelers who are just interested in exploring the outdoors.

"Many Filipinos before were content to just wear suits. But now, people are becoming more health conscious and they really want to go out there and experience nature," De Leon says.

He says the perfect endorser of Columbia's line is the owner of the company. She is an 80-year-old who is still very fit and healthy because she makes it a point to engage in some form of physical activity.

Columbia's first shop in the Philippines at the Gateway Mall in the Araneta Center was opened last February. Plans are under-way to expand to the Podium and Filinvest.

COLUMBIA brand manager Dino de Leon shows off features of Columbia's apparel.

Columbia was brought in by the same group that distributes LA Gear, Samsonite, Jansport and Kickers products.

Columbia has to carefully select its store sites as not everybody can afford its products.

Its titanium line, waterproof jacket sells for about P6,400 each; waterproof shoes goes for about P7,000 and apparel for fishermen with UV protection sells for P2,190.

The most sellable item is a pair of pants that can also be used as shorts. It sells for about P2,200. Some of the styles of these shorts/pants are made in the Philippines.

Other items on the shelves are performance socks, made of wool and are odor resistant, zipper pouches and hydration packs that are popular with serious bikers who do not want to stop for a water break. They just pop the straw into their mouth and drink away without breaking stride.

De Leon says more than half of its customers so far are male, but this has not stopped Columbia from thinking of ways to expand its market.

Columbia, he says, plans to step up its campaign to get more people to try the outdoors by cooperating with the Department of Tourism and the World Wildlife Federation on their tourism awareness projects.

Columbia eventually wants to get to that level where if Filipinos think about the outdoors, they will think of Columbia.

COLUMBIA sells everything that a fitness and adventure buff needs.

SPORTS MARKETING

Pizza chain brings limelight to women athletes

By Anne Luisa E. Villarico

PIZZA parlor chain Shakey's believes sports events bring family and friends together.

Believing further that by being connected to sports programs, it can attract the public and give more attention to its brand, it launched Shakey's V-League last year.

The Shakey's V-League is the first intercollegiate semi-professional Volleyball league set up in May 2004.

Vicente L. Gregorio, Shakey's general manager, says Shakey's chose to sponsor a volleyball tournament because they feel that it's time for women athletes to be given the chance to shine through a popular sport such as volleyball.

MARKETING STRATEGY

Much fanfare has been given to collegiate basketball in the country but not much about volleyball, which is also an exciting spectators game.

He added volleyball is a sport that Filipino women have a very good chance to excel in.

The marketing strategy is a part of the total re-imaging campaign of Shakey's that started in 2003, said Gregorio. The exposure also gives an opportunity for Shakey's to tell the public about its new product offerings and services.

The plan to put up Shakey's V-League began early last year when Gregorio was approached by key players in the sports industry, such as the Philippine Basketball Association (PBA), who presented a plan to develop women's volleyball tournaments.

"It immediately caught our attention because the people behind this program are very well-respected people in the industry," Gregorio said. "Shakey's in a way has a relationship with this people in the past through our chairman Leo Prieto Sr. who used to be a commissioner in the PBA."

"We also realized that they have a very noble cause which is to promote the volleyball sport and offer women athletes the opportunity to show their skills."

THE SHAKEY'S V-League gives opportunity for women athletes to shine in a league of their own.

Shakey's invited the best volleyball teams in the collegiate arena to compete against each other. These were De La Salle University-Manila, Lyceum College of the Philippines, San Sebastian College-Recoletos, San Juan de Letran and Far Eastern University. The games were held at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

To up the ante on the competition on the second conference, they also added another team—Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) team composed of veteran players who were Asean champions during 1998-1999.

Shakey's V-League has also created quite a stir in the sports arena in just two conferences. Gregorio said there were players who stood out and have become popular because of the league.

The league's second conference just wrapped up with the La Salle volleybelles emerging as champions. The second season will start before the end of April this year.

Shakey's also feels it got good mileage with its sponsorship.

"Being the title sponsor, we got daily exposure on TV as the games are aired on IBC 13 except on Wednesdays. The league in itself is very exciting to watch. A lot of people go to the venue to watch where our brand is displayed prominently," Gregorio says.

Gregorio also emphasized that Shakey's V-League is also Shakey's way of giving back to the community.

"If we sponsor just a concert, it's just a one-time event. You get awareness, yes ...but does that really help? After a while we forget about it. V-league is something youngsters can look forward to," he says.

The V-league, he says, encourages young girls to become volleyball players in the future.

"If PBA is the prime basketball league, V-league is fast becoming that one. Who knows in the future there will be a professional volleyball league?" he says.

Aside from V-League, Shakey's has long been sponsoring a girls softball team for the International Little League Association of Manila (ILLAM). The team is composed of daughters of expatriates coming from different schools.

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RP . . .

From page B2-4

been chosen to become one of the consultancy firm's GDCs not only for its highly skilled manpower but also because of its key position in the global outsourcing map.

"The Philippines is a big emerging market. We have a lot of multinational companies here, we also have some blue-chip clients from banks to retailers to manufacturers. This is the market where we hire from," he relates.

Headstrong has been operating in the country for 17 years and he says the Philippines has proven its worth time and again with the kind of output that the local GDC has been producing over the years.

All sorts of applications, including a contactless automatic fare collection system now in place in Hong Kong and Taipei, were conceptualized and actually created in the Philippines, he says.

He explains the quality of personnel here—with their attitude toward work and their understanding of the presence of an internal (within the company itself) and an external (with clients) culture—is what makes the Philippine GDC quite a success.

Philippines vs. India

But, for all the praise that the Philippine GDC has been getting, it is but inevitable that it will be compared with India, one of the country's top competitors for outsourced businesses and the site of another Headstrong GDC.

India, he says, is strong in the programming sector, which explains the huge number of programmers there as well as their insatiable thirst to develop more programs and applications.

India has attracted quite a lot of attention from MNCs wanting to outsource their research and development requirements.

But with the influx of investors and the increasing number of companies needing skilled manpower, Pushkarna says there is a mad scramble for limited human resources, making attrition rates high and loyalty rates low in many instances.

For the Philippine GDC, he says most employees have stayed on for as long as the firm has been in operation here.

"Our employees stay with us for as long as eight years and some have even been here for 17 years. The key is that our people work on very interesting projects, so they don't get bored easily. Aspirations are being met," he explains.

"The jobs we have here are also financially competitive. They're in the upper quadrant of the pay scale, plus we have stock option plans and variable pay that's based on performance," he adds.

Customer satisfaction

The key to the success of Headstrong's operations, not just here but overall, is its focus on customer satisfaction and giving clients the kind of service that they deserve, Pushkarna says.

With the right kind of people, he says keeping clients happy has not been very difficult.

"Our people are our biggest strength here. They have a tremendous amount of respect from our clients. Their ethos is that they are an extension of the client, so clients have never been let down. They have a strong sense of ownership and of being able to deliver," he relates. "We take customer satisfaction very seriously."

Because of the high level of customer satisfaction from its Philippine operations, he says more robust growth is seen in the coming years.

He says the 300-strong Philippine facility will soon expand into a 1,000-person office.

Headstrong recently signed a five-year contract renewing its lease of two floors of the Export and Industry Bank Plaza in Makati, proving its commitment to stay in the country for years to come.

Microsoft launches new ad campaign for Windows XP

SEATTLE—Microsoft Corp. launched a 15-month advertising campaign on Monday to boost sales of the Windows XP operating system, while the world's largest software maker prepares its next version of Windows, code-named Longhorn.

Redmond, Washington-based Microsoft declined to say how much it would spend on the global television, print and online marketing effort, or how the duration of the campaign might reflect the delivery schedule of Longhorn.

Advertising trade report Adweek estimated the cost of the campaign at about $100 million, including production of more than 50 versions of television commercials for 11 countries.

Advertising agency McCann Erickson, part of Interpublic Group of Cos Inc, created the campaign.

Scott Lennard, director of advertising for Microsoft's consumer marketing group, said that Microsoft wanted people to "rediscover" Windows XP, currently its flagship operating system, which runs on more than nine out of 10 personal computers.

The massive ad campaign comes three years after the debut of Windows XP and urges people to use the programs to pursue any of more than a dozen different interests, including music, science, art and sports.

In the main print ads, a window is displayed over a person's heart, with various images connected to the themes flowing out of the window.

Microsoft's renewed advertising effort also comes as Apple Computer Inc. prepares to ship the latest operating system for its Macintosh PC later this month.

Apple's software, which it calls "Mac OS X Tiger," is being described by the Cupertino, California-based company as a feature-rich operating system that already delivers many of the features promised by Longhorn.

Microsoft is expected to talk about Longhorn in greater detail next week at its annual hardware and engineering conference in Seattle. Microsoft is planning to release a preliminary test, or beta, version of Longhorn this summer. *Reuters*

HMO buys mobile clinics

INTELLICARE, an HMO, recently bought two mobile clinics and a stand along clinic at the Laguna Technopart in Sta. Rosa from the Healthway Medical Clinics.

The purchase is a strategic move to provide value added, accessible and affordable medical services to its existing corporate clientele.

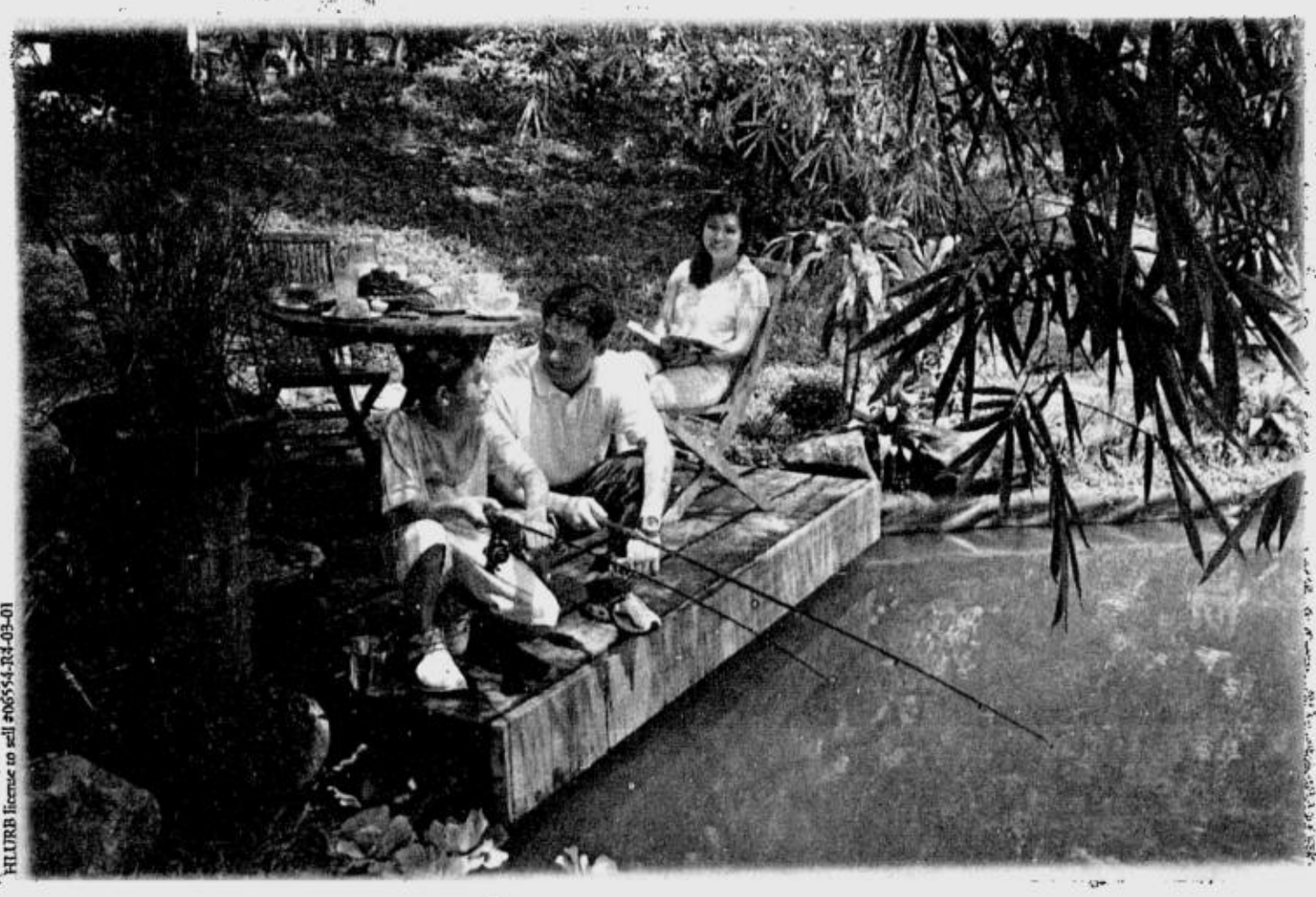
Intellicare president Mario M. Silos said the news clinics aim to reinforce the company's strength in establishing its presence to its customers.

The purchase increases its clinic-owned operations to five—Makati, Mandaluyong, Alabang, Calamba and Sta. Rosa.

The "clinic-on-wheels" will offer Intellicare members a convenient way to undergo their annual physical examinations on pre-scheduled periods.

The mobile clinics are equipped with x-ray, an ECG, hematology analyzer, automatic developer and others.

Family fun shouldn't be confined to the mall.



Or the theater. Or the arcade. Or even the country club. It's about time you experienced a fresh, new way of life at Nusa Dua. The only Balinese-themed residential farming community located in nearby Cavite, where everything, including the food is natural. French fries come from potatoes you grew yourself. Caesar salad, from veggies you picked from your garden. Shakes, from fruits handpicked in your very own orchard. Here, farming has never been more enjoyable or hassle-free since we've put everything you'll need within easy reach. Even with little know-how you can easily learn the tricks of the trade. What's more, with so many places to visit amidst a lush, green setting, your family will never run out of fun things to do. Discover the gift of the earth as you experience your new lifestyle, your second wind, here at Nusa Dua.

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FRIDAY, APRIL 22, 2005

BUSINESS Friday

PUSHKARNA of Headstrong Philippines Inc.

RP seen edging out India in call center trade

By Abigail L. Ho

FOR SEVERAL years now, the call center sector has been touted as the country's sunshine industry, raking in millions of dollars in investments for the Philippines.

The field of business process outsourcing, to which the call center industry belongs, has also attracted many a global firm to bring business into the Philippines.

It is no wonder, really, as the caliber of Filipino programmers and manpower has been proven to be at par with that of its counterparts in more technologically advanced Asian countries like India, for example.

It is for this reason that global consultancy firms like US-based Headstrong set up business here.

Headstrong specializes in four key sectors: financial services, manufacturing, public sector and services.

It lists customer relationship management, business intelligence, enterprise architecture and portfolio management as its core competencies.

Headstrong says Filipinos' skills enhance these competencies, thus it made the Philippines the site of one of its Global Delivery Centers (GDC), which serve as centers of applications and solutions development for its many customers all over the world.

Puneet Pushkarna, Headstrong Philippines Inc. managing director, says the country has

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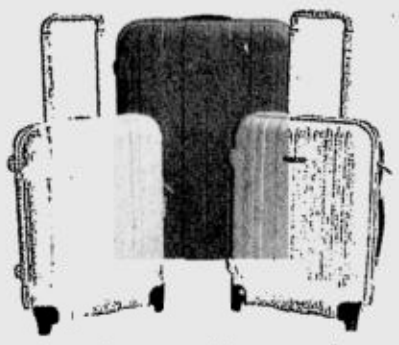


HAVE bag, will travel /C2

GLAM, gorgeous summer /E1

STYLE from Down Under /F1

FERRAGAMO'S third generation steps up /H1

Funny inside look at local fashion world

INQUIRER fashion and beauty contributing writer Kitty Go has released her first novel, "When Chic Hits the Fan: Celebrity and Fashion Confessions of a Former Magazine Editor," a fictional account of what it is like to lead the stylish life in a painfully pretentious small town.

Go, who also contributes lifestyle features to The Financial Times in London and the South China Morning Post in Hong Kong, is no stranger to controversy, having been editor of Preview magazine at one time and having written the column, "The Catty Chronicles" for another daily.

Go's novel will surely raise many honey-waxed and Tweezerman-plucked eyebrows, if not leave many celebrity and society climbers quaking in their Manolos.

As Constance Brooke Pendelton, columnist of Metro Society, commented, "This is the book of the season. If there is anything you ever wanted to know about anybody in Manila, you must read this book."

"When Chic Hits the Fan" is a razor-sharp chronicle of Giselle Cordero's life as editor of Manila's Style magazine. What seems outwardly a dream job turns out to be fashion and society hell for Cordero.

Go's fictional account of the Philippine celebrity and fashion worlds can only be told by a fashion insider who has experienced the worst in what is often thought of as a glamorous world.

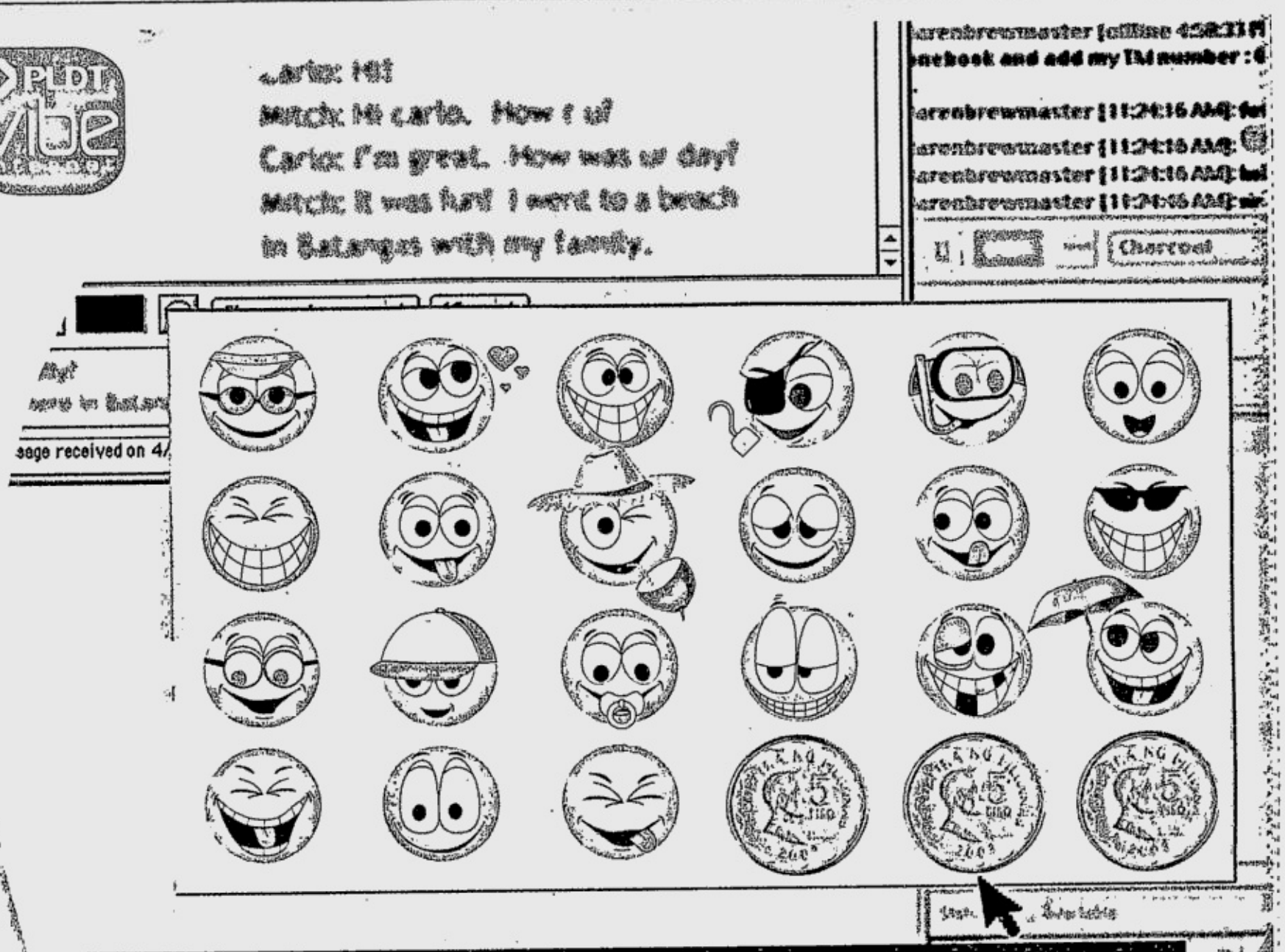
Social and show-biz personalities are caricatured in designer-outfitted characters such as the Yohji Yamamoto-wearing homosexual twins, a poor little "It" girl who doesn't know when to use "it's" or "its," a hostess with the gayest parties and an even gayer husband, Jil Sander-clad lesbian "king" makers and Savile Row-clad phony British social climbers.

As INQUIRER columnist Tessa Prieto-Valdes says, "If truth is more powerful than fiction, then this incendiary concoction is sure to cause a blast!"

Although not worthy of a National Book award, "When Chic Hits the Fan" feeds everyone's hunger for gossip and celebrity culture. It is an entertaining read and at the same time a bold step in publishing since it dares to voice out what everyone has been thinking but has never dared to print or openly discuss.

For everyone who has been there or is considering a life in the glamorous media business, this is a must-read. If it doesn't change your view of this glorified world, it promises to at least keep you gossiping for weeks.

"When Chic Hits the Fan" retails for P250 at selected National Bookstores, or may be ordered by e-mail at loudmouthtwn@yahoo.com.tw



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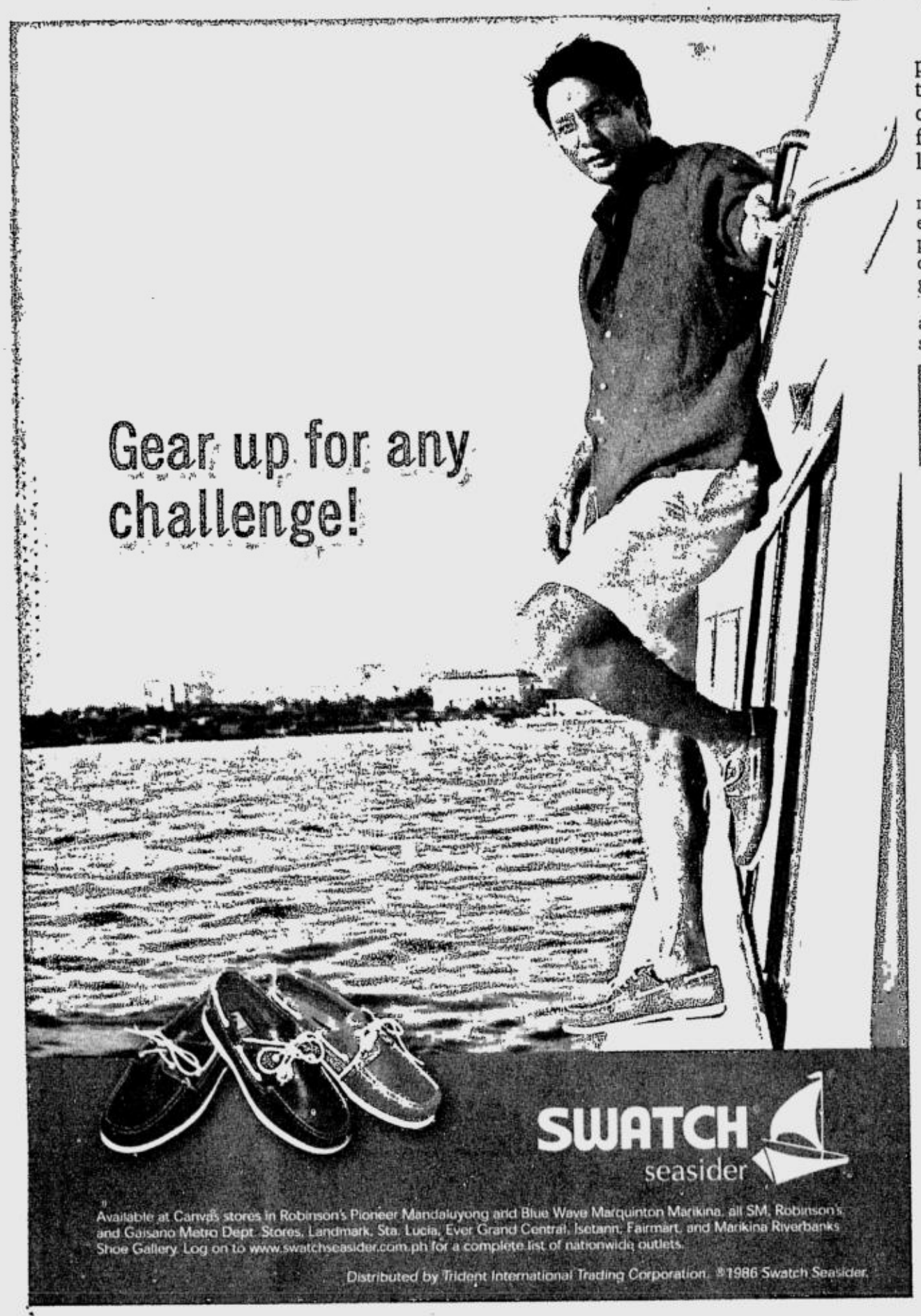
PLDT

Bon voyage! But before that, make sure you have the right baggage for your trip

Bag the bag!



YOUR choice of luggage and travel organizers are as important as the clothes you're packing. It's always an advantage to invest in a good-quality bag because it's sturdier and will, therefore, ensure that your personal belongings are secure.

I'm certain we'd all like to avoid the nightmare of bursting, broken, duct-taped suitcases with everything falling out. So, before you purchase your ticket or book your hotel, head out to a travel store and choose a piece of luggage that suits your needs.

Ultimately, your goal should be to invest in a luggage set (a combination of different sized bags of the same make, color and brand) so whenever you have a trip, be it last minute or long-awaited, long-haul or a quick getaway, you always have something to use.

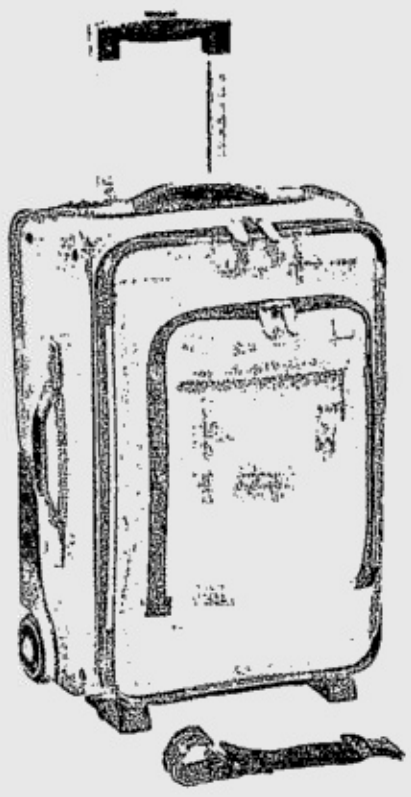
APPLES' PICKINGS

Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

All bags and travel organizers are available at the Travel Club, the first and only travel shop in the Philippines.

E-mail the author at apsadvice@hotmail.com

Cabin baggage regulations



TROLLEY bags such as this Victorinox Small Mobilizer Wheeled Upright (P16,950) meets carry-on regulations and has a one-touch aluminum handle and 80mm inline wheels.

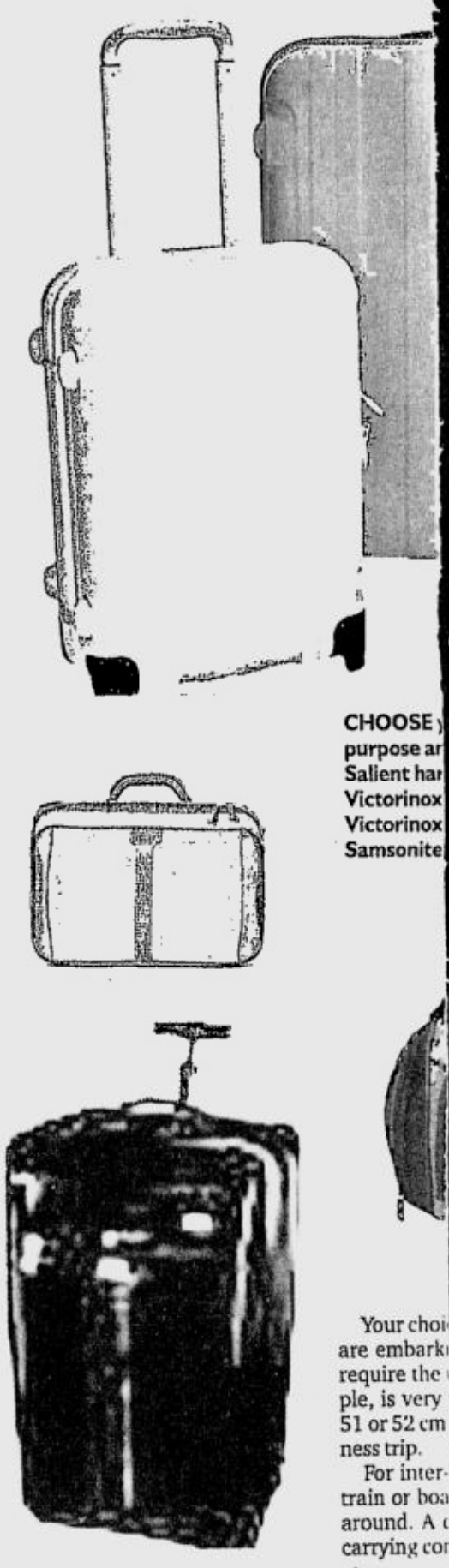
To ensure passengers' comfort and safety, there are limitations to the size and number of bags you can bring inside the airplane. Although these normally differ from airline to airline, similar cabin baggage regulations are implemented at many airports and airlines around the world.

Make sure your hand-carry bags are acceptable to avoid the hassle of last minute check-ins, overweight luggage and the potential loss of valuables.

Usually, each passenger is allowed to bring one 55 cm x 40 cm x 20 cm trolley, the length, breadth and width of which, when added together, must not exceed 115 cm in total, subject to "stowability." It should also not weigh more than seven kilograms.

In lieu of a trolley, a garment bag, with dimensions not exceeding 115 cm and thickness not more than 20 cm when folded, is also acceptable. Or you may bring a briefcase with a maximum measurement of 50 cm x 40 cm x 25 cm.

Size matters



CHOOSE purpose ar Salient har Victorinox Victorinox Samsonite

Your choi are embark require the ple, is very 51 or 52 cm ness trip.

For inter- train or boa around. A carrying co

Hard vs. soft

TAKE your pick from this selection of good-quality hard and soft cases: The Samsonite Cruise Air S Salient 73cm hardcase (P29,990); Victorinox SW-27 Expandable Wheeled Travel Bag (P14,490); Sa

There are various considerations when purchasing luggage. Are you partial to hard cases or do you prefer softside cases?

Hardside luggage is perceived to be heavy, but with the latest technology, new offerings can be quite light. Sometimes, they're even lighter than their softside counterparts.

Also, they won't suffer from punctures and will definitely not tear. In the long run, they will probably endure more trials than softside cases and provide optimum protection for what's inside.

The only downside price factor. Since ha more state-of-the art prove to be pricier th But if you can spa funds, you might as these.

Soft cases are norm

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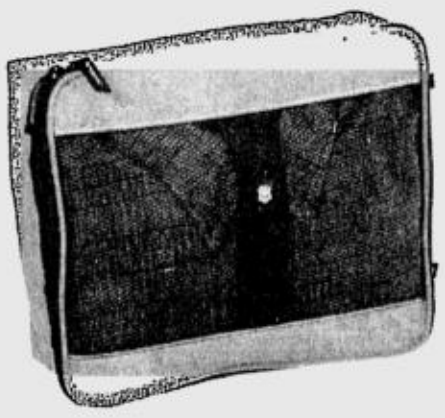
Travel aids

TO HOLD your money and important documents, the Victorinox Travel Organizer (P1,390) is a practical choice.

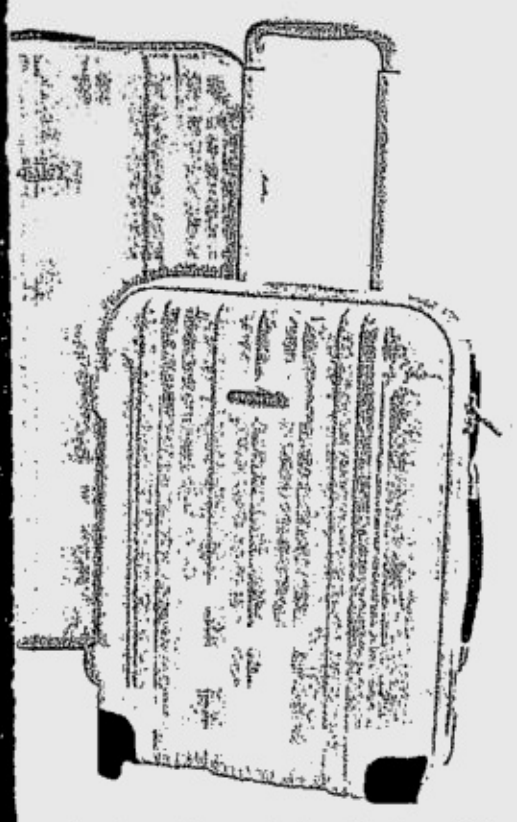
Besides your luggage and cabin bags, travel organizers can help you pack more efficiently. There are various kits with folding boards to help you fold garments in a uniform size to fit into the kit. This way, you avoid wrinkled clothing. Packing kits such as these are also ideal space-savers.

When traveling, it's a good idea to have a travel organizer for valuables and important documents like money, passports, tickets, all of which should be on board with you.



THE LARGE Pop-up Packing Cube (P1,290) is perfect for shirts and undergarments and has a U-shaped front opening for easy access.

FOR EASY packing, try the Victorinox packing system. The medium Palmaster (P1,390) comes with a folding board and can hold up to eight garments neatly.



your bag depending on the length of your trip, your d destination: (clockwise from above) Ace Progress dcases 73cm (P29,990) and 52cm (P22,990); SW Large Deluxe Cargo Duffel (P4,990); 51cm Deluxe wheeled travel bag (P11,490); and Hommage Boardcase (P8,590)

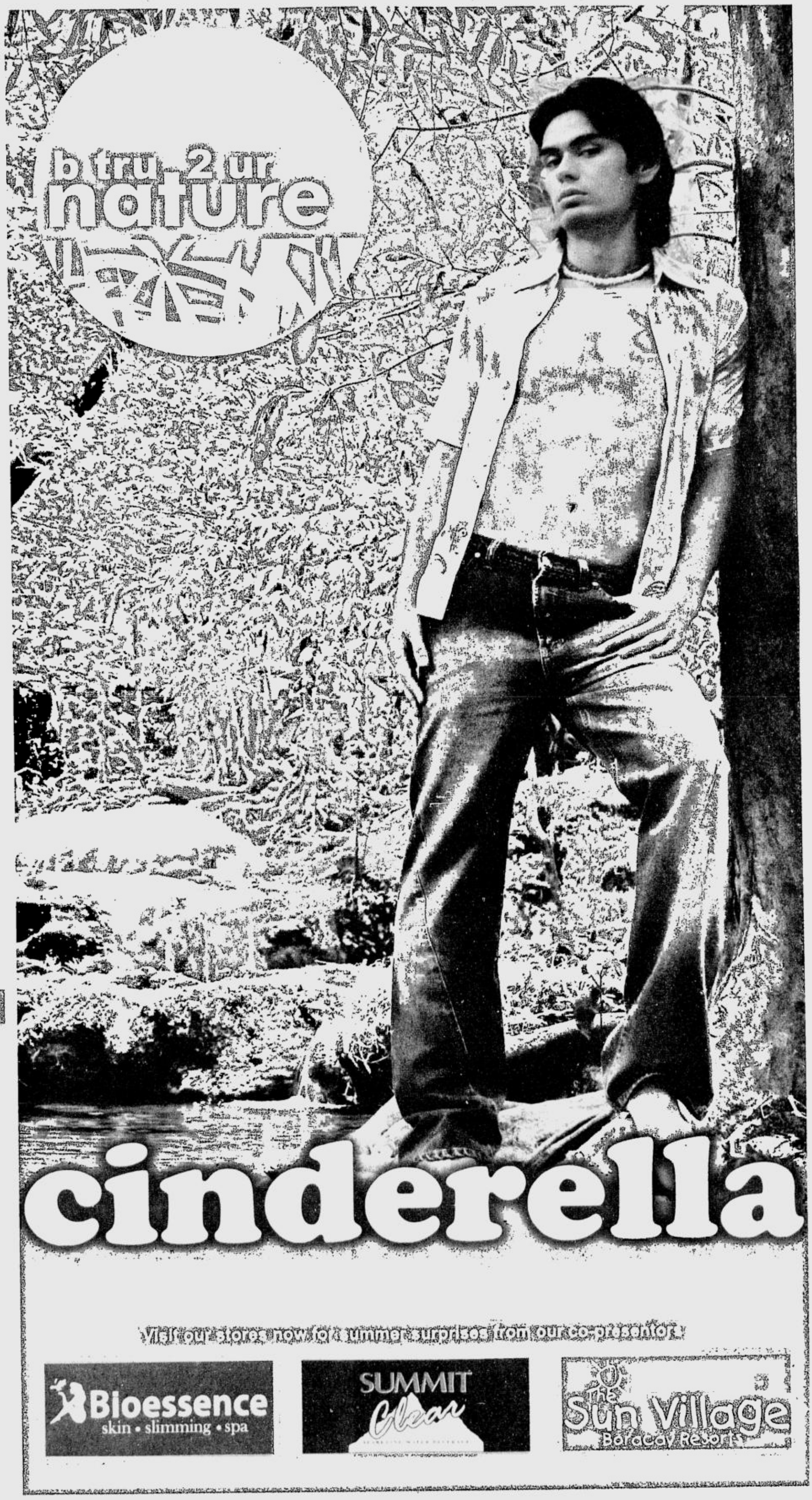
e of bag should also depend on the kind of trip you ng on. Naturally, a two-week grand vacation will se of a good-sized bag. A 70 cm trolley, for exam- popular for long-haul trips. Meanwhile, a smaller wheeled travel bag will suffice for a three-day busi-

sland or beach trips that require the use of a car, , it is much easier to use a bag you can easily lug uffel with shoulder straps and handles made for fort is ideal.

inner 79cm hardcase (P16,790); Ace Progress msonite Expandable Spark FL 70cm (P10,190)

would be the d cases are they may n soft cases. the extra ell invest in

lly cheaper than the hard-case variety, and more importantly, they usually have the option for expansion so you have additional space when you most need it. They may also come with external pockets that can conveniently store folded items or accessories.



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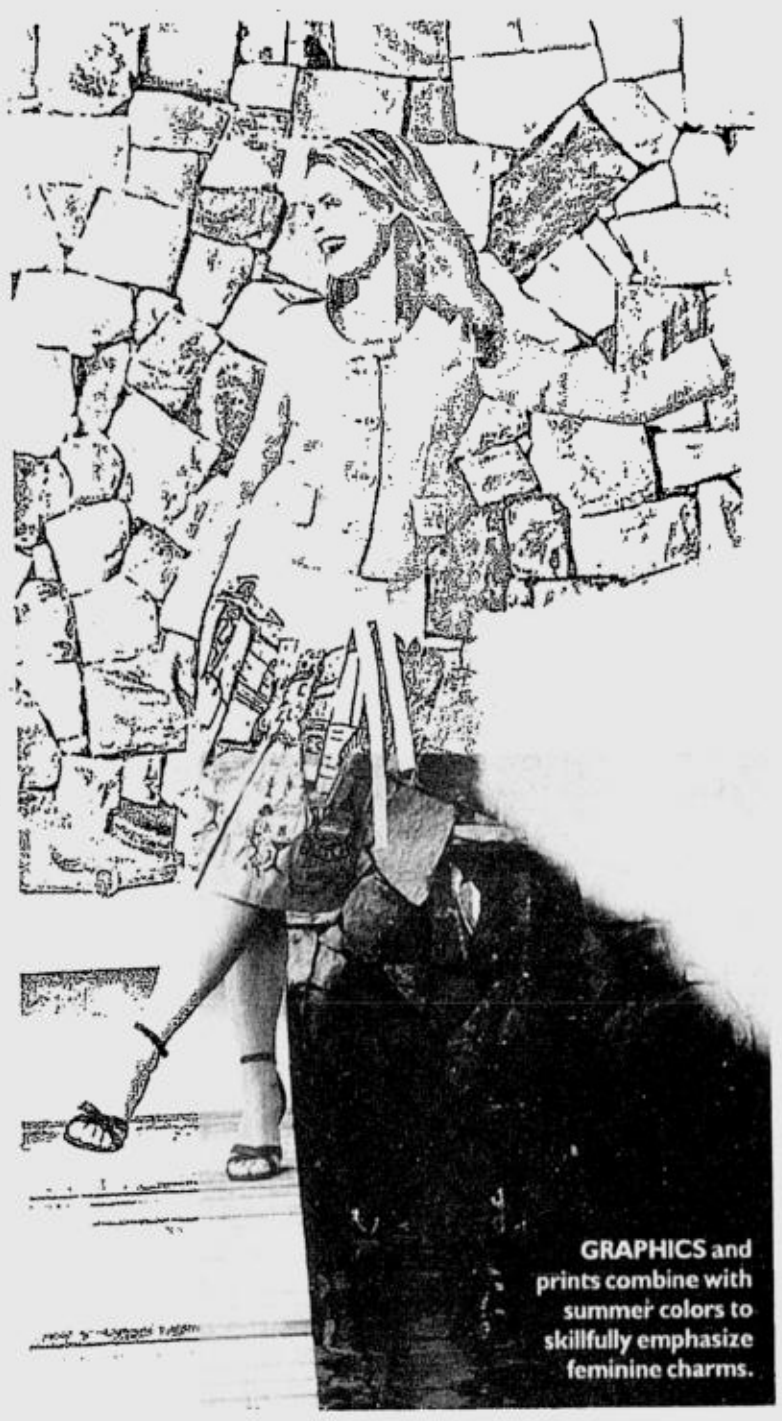
Single male, 24 years old. 5'10", loves to play basketball, play the guitar and go to the beach. Looking for a girl who's cute, funny, and smart.

Betty Barclay's new collection harks back to elegance of the '50s and '60s



GRAPHICS and prints combine with summer colors to skillfully emphasize feminine charms.

PINSTRIPES with shaped cuts are lightened up with feminine silk or tulle tops in fruity colors.

Feminine allure

GEOMETRIC ensembles are a modern interpretation of a bygone sense of elegance and style.

INSPIRED by the elegance of the 1950s and early 1960s, Betty Barclay's modern interpretation of the era skillfully emphasizes feminine allure with clean looks, fresh colors and prints and patterns that convey optimism.

Everything looks dressed up and smart, beginning with details such as oversized buttons in contrasting colors, borders, fringes, piping or chiffon edges.

Knee-length, flared skirts with coffee shop prints paired with short, boxy jackets with three-fourth sleeves, reflect cheerful new silhouettes. Tight pencil skirts with concealed slits and close-fitting fine knitted twin sets with bow details are typical, as are capri trousers with a prim shirt or a shift dress under a super lightweight trench coat.

Betty Barclay's new collection also includes close-fitting city suits in plain grey, black or pinstripes with shaped cuts that are lightened up with feminine silk or tulle tops in fruity colors.

Styles can be mixed: smart denim in light, black or dark indigo always makes a great combination. The richness of materials also creates a plethora of possibilities. In addition to cotton, linen, silk crinkle, leather, chiffon and jacquard are this season's stable materials.

The Betty Barclay shop is located at the 3rd level of SM Megamall Building B, Mandaluyong City.

Leading European fashion school offers basic and masteral programs

GET yourself a true European-style fashion education at Istituto Marangoni.

EVERY year over 2,000 students from all over the world meet at Istituto Marangoni to pursue a shared dream: creativity. It is here at one of Europe's leading fashion and design schools that young, talented individuals find the expertise they need to become professionals in their field.

Beginners and industry professionals can realize their dreams and goals in the world of fashion through a true European-style fashion education at Istituto Marangoni's premiere London and oh-so-chic Milan campuses. Follow the lead of prominent Marangoni graduates such as Moschino, Domenico Dolce of the fearless Milanese design duo Dolce & Gabbana and Tom Ford's successor for women's wear designer Alessandra Facchinetti.

Beginning October, prospective students can choose from a number of courses from either of Marangoni's campuses.

The Milan Fashion Department is offering three basic three-year programs, which include Fashion Design, Fashion Business and Fashion Styling. Students can also opt to take any of the basic one-year programs such as Fashion Design and Pattern Making and Production while industry professionals can complete their master's program in Fashion Design, Accessories Design, Fashion Styling, Fashion Brand Management, Fashion Buying or Fashion Promotion. Summer courses in Fashion Design and Image Consultancy will also be conducted starting July.

The Milan Design Department, on the other hand, is offering basic three-year programs in Interior Design, Product Design and Communication Design, a One-Year International Students Program in Interior Design and master's programs in Design Research, Brand Design and Living Design.

Marangoni's London campus gives interested applicants a choice from among several basic three-year programs, basic one-year programs, master's programs and summer courses. The three-year programs include Fashion Design, Fashion Business and Fashion Styling while basic one-year programs in Fashion Design, Pattern-making and Production and Fashion Business are also offered. Eight months is all you need to complete a master's program in Fashion Design, Fashion Styling or Fashion Accessories. Summer Courses in either Fashion Design or Image Consultancy lasts three weeks and begins in August.

Visit Manila Marangoni Information Center, 2/L, City Golf Plaza, Julia Vargas St., Pasig (inside the Aranaz bag boutique). Call 6349043 or e-mail marangoniph@yahoo.com. Visit www.istitutomarangoni.com

Single female, 21 years old, loves cooking, enjoys going to the beach, reading and listening to music. Looking for a tall guy, who's honest, fun and outgoing.

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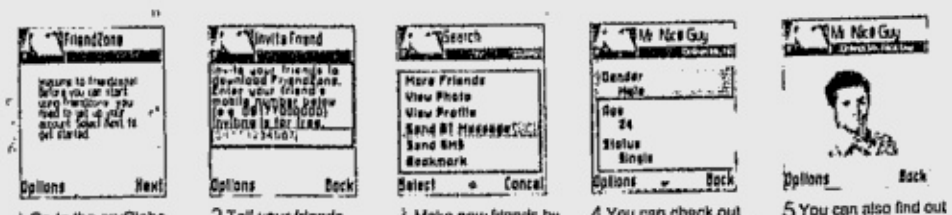

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2. Text GO <handset model> to 2951 to get your phone's settings. Ex. GO N3650. For Nokia 6600, 6820, 6260, 7200 and 7650 text GO <handset model>,1234 to 2951.
Make sure that you type in the two commas before the 1234 PIN.
3 Enter 1234 when asked for PIN to save the settings
4. Send an MMS message for only P5.00 to activate the service

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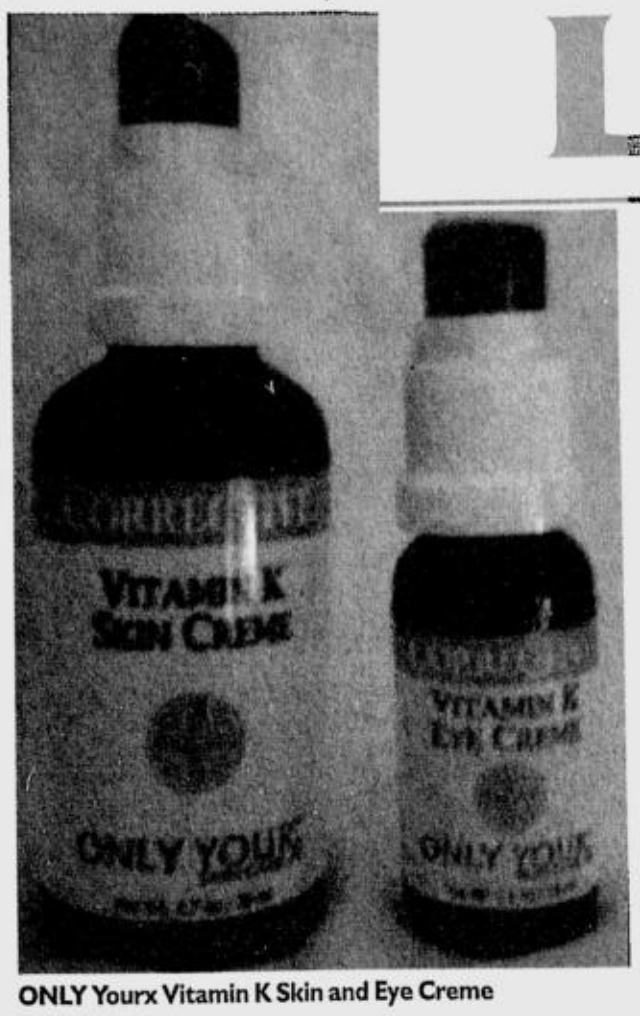
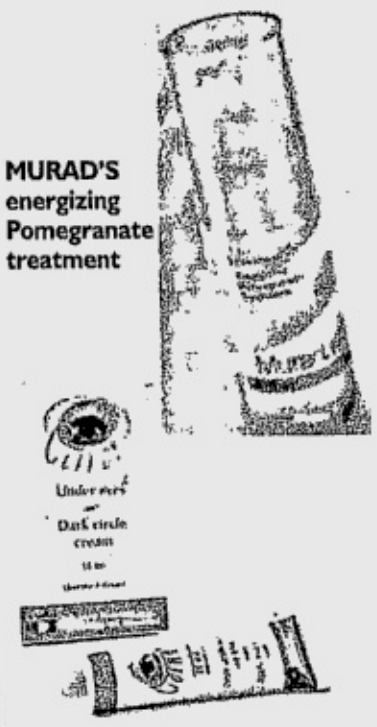


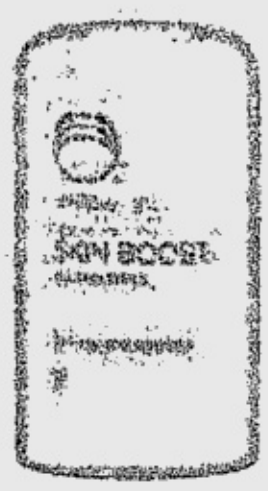
ONLY Yourx Vitamin K Skin and Eye Creme

C MULTIVITAMIN Antioxidant Serum with Pycnogenol



MURAD'S energizing Pomegranate treatment

CERNOR



THE BODY Shop Vitamin C Skin Boost

Pycnogenol, an extract from the French maritime pine, rescued many a sailor from scurvy once upon a time

Hooray for antioxidants

ANTIOXIDANTS are the hottest word in beautiful skin preservation today.

Many people, especially women, are becoming aware that for skin to be beautiful, it has to be healthy inside out.

MAKEOVER 911

Kinny Salas

With the oppressive heat of the summer, sun damage is more apparent in the form of freckles, melasma, dullness and uneven skin tone. We know that antioxidants will prevent and repair skin damage by eliminating free radicals and encouraging collagen synthesis.

While every company claims that their active ingredient is the best antioxidant (Vitamin C, E, green tea, etc.), my research has led me to Pycnogenol, an extract from the French maritime pine that once upon a time rescued many a sailor from scurvy.

Native Americans have been taking this extract for medicinal purposes for a long time. Hailed as the super antioxidant, it possesses 50 times the strength of Vitamin E and 20 times that of Vitamin C.

Pycnogenol protects the cell membranes from sun damage, provides capillary support and helps preserve collagen. This has been instrumental in keeping my skin firm and a whole lot younger-looking. Having recently been tested as someone with the skin quality of an 11-year-old, I can only credit Pycnogenol, along with Coenzyme Q10, as my secret weapons.

I take Nature's Bounty Pycnogenol capsules which I get from Health Express for P1,650 for 30 tablets. To deal with visible sun damage I acquire from going to the beach or outdoors without sunblock, I use Only Yourx Multivitamin antioxidant serum with Vitamins C, A, B complex, E and Pycnogenol.

It diminishes lines and wrinkles, improves skin firmness and elasticity, and fades and prevents pigmentation. Going to the beach has been less stressful for me now. Some reports also say Pycnogenol is the fastest to treat melasma so far.

I get my serum from Jeunesse Manila (tel. 6888062), my usual contact which also supplies doctors.

Glow baby glow

Murad Vitalic skincare line with Pomegranate has gotten rave reviews from friends and relatives I have given the products to. Both men and women love the fact that six essential steps are cut down to three, and they are granted that "after-sex glow" (their words, not mine!) after using it.

That means smooth dewy skin with flushed cheeks and finer pores! The Vitalic skin supplements raise energy levels and brighten your skin tone all over. This tip was told us by Dr. Howard Murad himself during an intimate press meeting.

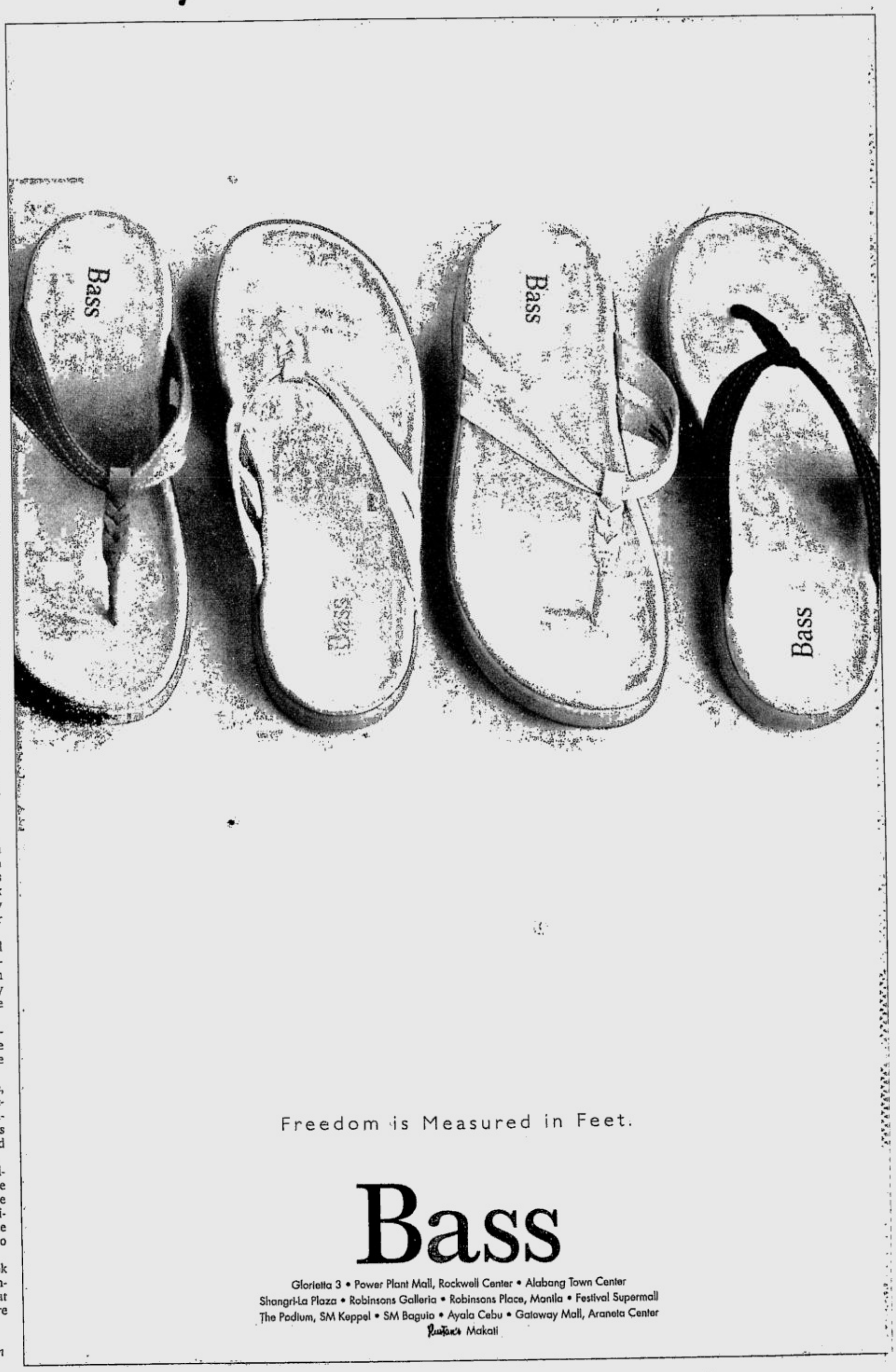
For severe sun damage, Murad still recommended his potent Environmental Shield line with Vitamin C, which is exclusively available at Essenses.

The Body Shop has its own Vitamin C line, which also works impressively but at a fraction of the price of Murad's line. I love the Vitamin C face polish, serum booster, capsules and non-greasy eye reviver that lightens and firms the undereye area.

For undereye circle eliminators, topical Vitamin K is the way to go, especially if the swelling is caused by nasty veins under the eye area. Cernor, the choice of many politicians and movie stars, is now available at the Belo Medical Group (tel. 8442939) and also at Jeunesse Manila.

Even if I only get four hours of sleep, I look so rested the whole day after with Cernor. Only Yourx Vitamin K 5 percent is equally great for those dark undereye circles that are caused by lack of sleep.

E-mail the author at kinnysalas@yahoo.com



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Bass

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Shangri-La Plaza • Robinsons Galleria • Robinsons Place, Manila • Festival Supermall
The Podium, SM Keppel • SM Baguio • Ayala Cebu • Gateway Mall, Araneta Center
Rustan's Makati

THE TRAINING Institute of Manila Engineers Foundation presents The Seventh International Food and Beverage Manufacturing and Technologies Expo on June 22-24 at the Philippine International Convention Center Forum. Photo shows (from left) Third Secretary for Economic Affairs Doris Serban; project chair Cesar Lim; and project account manager Aprille Robles during the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding. Call 6870654/ 6870604.

A DESPEDIDA luncheon was recently hosted by Isabel Guevara at her Makati residence for Maribel Guevara Diazbedia, a resident of Madrid, Spain. Among the guests who attended were (seated from left): Pilar Treichler, Nena Toda, Maribel Diazbedia, Pacita Barretto and Edith O'Farrell. Standing from left: Isabel Guevara, Mameng Carag, Mila Bona Garcia, Mila Trinidad Garcia, Pilina Rocha and Baby Pardo Paterno.

Search for aspiring models on

THE 28TH Entertainment Hall begins its search for 2005 Circa Moda: A Model's Quest this month. Screening of candidates is ongoing until today, 1-5 p.m., at the Penthouse of Cityland 8 Condominium. Final presentation of candidates is on May 5 at the AFP Theater. The search is open to aspiring male and female models, aged 17-22. Call 8941972 or e-mail 28thenthall@charmed.ph.

GOINGS ON

BAZAAR. Friends for the Love of Mother Earth Bazaar will be held today until May 1, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. daily at Green in the City compound, 358 Interior (behind UCPB), Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City. There will be booths selling organic vegetables, healthy food and drinks, personal care and household items, innovative gadgets, ornamental plants, herbal and aromatherapy products. Proceeds of sales will help support the ecological projects and environmental education programs of Mother Earth Foundation.

CONCERT. Soprano Eunice Ejusa and guitarist Ferdie Medina are the featured guests in Paco Park Presents tonight at 6. Admission is free.

COMPETITIONS. Metropolis Star Alabang holds Solo Star Dance Competition, open to freelance individuals, male or female, 15-20 years old and single. Elimination round happens all Wednesdays of April, 6 p.m., at the 2/L activity area. Singing pairs aged 12 and below, male or female, are invited to join Duet Singing Competition for Kids. Elimination round happens every Tuesday, 5 p.m., at the 2nd level activity area of Starmall Edsa-Shaw. Registration forms are available for free. Call 7181886.

PAINTING WORKSHOP. The Federation of Philippine Photographers Foundation offers summer painting workshop for all ages today and tomorrow, 9 a.m.-12 nn, at Fort Santiago, Manila. Prof. Cecilia Angeles, a faculty member of the Fine Arts department of Philippine Women's University, will conduct the workshop. Call 8435341/ 8137420/ 8447769.

WORKSHOPS. This summer, B.P.A. Bulacan conducts workshops in painting, dance, voice, bodybuilding, filmmaking and tours to Vigan, Baguio and Banawe. B.P.A. Malolos Chapter will conduct a workshop today until May 5. Call 0920-4127142/ 0915-4061575/ 0917-9423958.

BIRD SHOW. PriceSmart Phils., Inc. will host an educational bird show at its newest warehouse in the Philippines, PriceSmart Aseana-Baclaran. The event, to be held April 24, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., will showcase unique birds, bird trick show andbird caring tips. Call 8935642/ 8935690.

FESTIVAL. Celebrate Earth Day with Love Earth Festival on April 24 at Tagaytay International Convention Center. A concert and play will be presented. Families who wish to join the Manila-Tagaytay caravan can proceed to The Fort, in front of Go Nuts Donuts and Pier 1. Look for the Love Earth Festival flag. Assembly time is at 8:30 a.m. Call 8169390/ 8169439.

MUSICAL. Concert at the Park presents the Adventist University of the Philippines String Orchestra, under the music direction of Prof. Jonathan Coo. The event is set on April 24, 6 p.m., at Rizal Park Open-Air Auditorium, Manila. Admission is free.

WORKSHOP. Gurus in film, television and print media will share their expertise and experiences in the Tagaytay Film, Broadcast and Creative Workshops on April 25-29 and May 9-13 at the Conference Center and Hotel of the Development Academy of the Philippines. Call 9261883/ 9251916/ 4133840.

WORKSHOPS. Robinsons Place Pioneer offers lessons on arts and crafts, culinary ideas, home and furnishings on April 28, May 5, 12, 19 and 26. Call 6836137/ 6836100.

PROMO. A summer treat from Sta. Lucia East Department Store, Home Gallery and Planet Toys await shoppers until April 30 as Hot Summer Escapades promo goes full blast. Every P500 purchase at SLEDS, Home Gallery and Planet Toys gives you the chance to win a vacation for two at Puerto del Sol Beach Resort and Hotel Club in Pangasinan. A Bio Essence Serenity Spa gift certificate is also up for grabs in the May 6 draw. Call 6815181.

SKETCHING TILT. The top 3 winners in the recent on-the-spot sketching contest in Plaridel, Bulacan will compete in the provincial level on April 30 in Pulilan. The winners are Therene Timbang, first prize; Katrina Joy Capulong, second prize; and Sarah Lourdes Fernandez, third prize.

MEREDITH Vega, winner of a three-day, two-night accommodation for two at The Farm in San Benito, Batangas with complimentary round-trip land transfers by Colf Auto Rental, is shown with her father Philip Vega (right) and Knuth Kiefer, Mandarin Oriental's executive assistant manager-rooms.

Robinsons Department Store

Anniversary SALE
now thru May 8
Get 25% OFF on ALL our Exclusive Labels
for 25 days to celebrate 25 Years of Fun and Fabulous Shopping

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Writing workshop set

A NEW schedule for a writing workshop this month for Filipino children from ages 8-18 has been set by Tower Book House. The workshop includes techniques in discovering one's writing style, strengthening one's style and applying this style in various forms of communication. Call 8154938/ 8156925 or visit Windsor Tower, 163 Legaspi Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City.

PROMO. Smart Buddy recently launched Buddy Moms, a membership-based mobile service that gives subscribers access to relevant information such as motherhood tips, sale alerts, discounts, freebies and invites to special events. To be a member of Buddy Moms, text MOM to 399.

PHOTO SEMINAR. The Federation of Philippine Photographers Foundation will hold a photography seminar for kids aged 7-12 on May 2-4 at Fort Santiago, Intramuros, Manila. Multi-awarded and veteran photography educator Ador Pamintuan will be the lecturer. Call 8435341/ 8137420.

WORKSHOP. Let your kids explore the world of dinosaurs, chemistry and scientific magic at the Raya Science Workshops on May 3-7. Venue is at 73-A Scout Limbaga St., QC. Call 3762184.

SEMINAR. The Center for Human Research and Development Foundation will hold a review/seminar for Government Radio Operator Certificate examination on May 20-23 at La Consolacion College, Mendiola, Manila. Call 9279858/ 9264708.

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THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT COSMETIC SURGERY

When we talk about cosmetic surgery, things that come first in our minds are stars and celebrities that have undergone facelift, nose lift, breast enlargement, or liposuction. Oftentimes, the idea about it brings society condemnation, disapproval, and endless criticism. Contrary to these perceptions, cosmetic surgery was given birth not solely for glamorous and aesthetic purposes. Science found the light in cosmetic or plastic surgery to bring about hope to birth disfigurement and war caused deformities. Its noble purpose is to give hope for the unfortunate newborns to live normally and a new life for soldiers and war victims to restore their shattered faces and confidence.

Now, the concept on cosmetic surgery has been diversified. It is now being attributed to many things. Technology, social acceptance, awareness to various media outlets, and people of our new generation giving so much focus on health and fitness, led to the progression of wanting to look good and feel good at the same time. People have deemed cosmetic surgery is the answer to that.

What is Cosmetic Surgery?

Cosmetic Surgery is a subspecialty of medicine that focuses on the enhancement of appearance through surgical and medical techniques. It is specifically concerned with the maintaining of normal appearance, restoring it, or enhancing it beyond the average level toward some aesthetic ideal.

Things to consider before undergoing a surgery

Determine your purpose. Ask yourself why you want to have a plastic surgery. More than the aesthetic and even financial aspect of the treatment, do you think you are physically and emotionally prepared to accept a new you? Contemplate more and consider a lot of factors before surrendering yourself to the operating room.

Set realistic goals and expectation. Cosmetic surgery is not some sort of magical ritual or procedure. It is not some sort of spell that will fit the saying 'your wish is your surgeon's command'. Cosmetic surgery may be considered a spectacular medical aesthetic treatment but it also has its boundaries and limitations. Art and beauty as it may seem, still science called to it does not promise a perfect you. As defined earlier, cosmetic surgery is more confined on enhancement or restoration rather than change or transformation.

On finding the right surgeon. The criteria on finding the right if not, the best surgeon should be high and tough. We must be very careful in this particular category for in your decision lies the destiny of your face or your body. It is a matter of not life and death but rather, of beauty and madness. Special skill and knowledge are essential in the practice of plastic surgery. Basic requirement is that your surgeon should be a certified and licensed physician. Competency in the following fields like anatomy, physiology, pathology, and basic sciences are also plus factors. Your surgeon should also have subspecialty and knowledge in all contributing disciplines like facial plastic surgery, general surgery, and dermatology. In fact, international medical institutions are now giving emphasis on formally introducing a new branch of skin science called "dermatological cosmetic surgery". All in all, competency in cosmetic surgery implies a combination of knowledge, surgical judgment, technical expertise and ethics in order to achieve the goal of providing aesthetic improvement.

While cosmetic surgery is an immensely positive experience for many people, we should know that there are advantages and disadvantages that may lie ahead. With the growing acceptance and openness to cosmetic surgery, it is also essential that we identify our purpose and not lose sight on the history of how it should be used.

Dermclinic, one of the most trusted dermatological clinics in the country offers Professional Cosmetic Surgery services done by its league of true skin experts. Its line-up of certified dermatologists and competent surgeons commit itself to providing the best medical aesthetic procedures like artists who are passionate to accomplish a masterpiece.

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About Dermclinic

Dr. Vinson B. Pineda, a well - respected and internationally recognized dermatologist established Dermclinic more than 30 years ago and is now considered as an institution which has mastered the art and science of skin health and wellness. In fact Dermclinic, has been the learning ground of some notable dermatologists in town today.

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Summer casual goes glam

Story on page E2

RICHARD Santos, VP for merchandising of CSSI, with U2 Plus Card launch hosts JR Isaac and Rissa Samson

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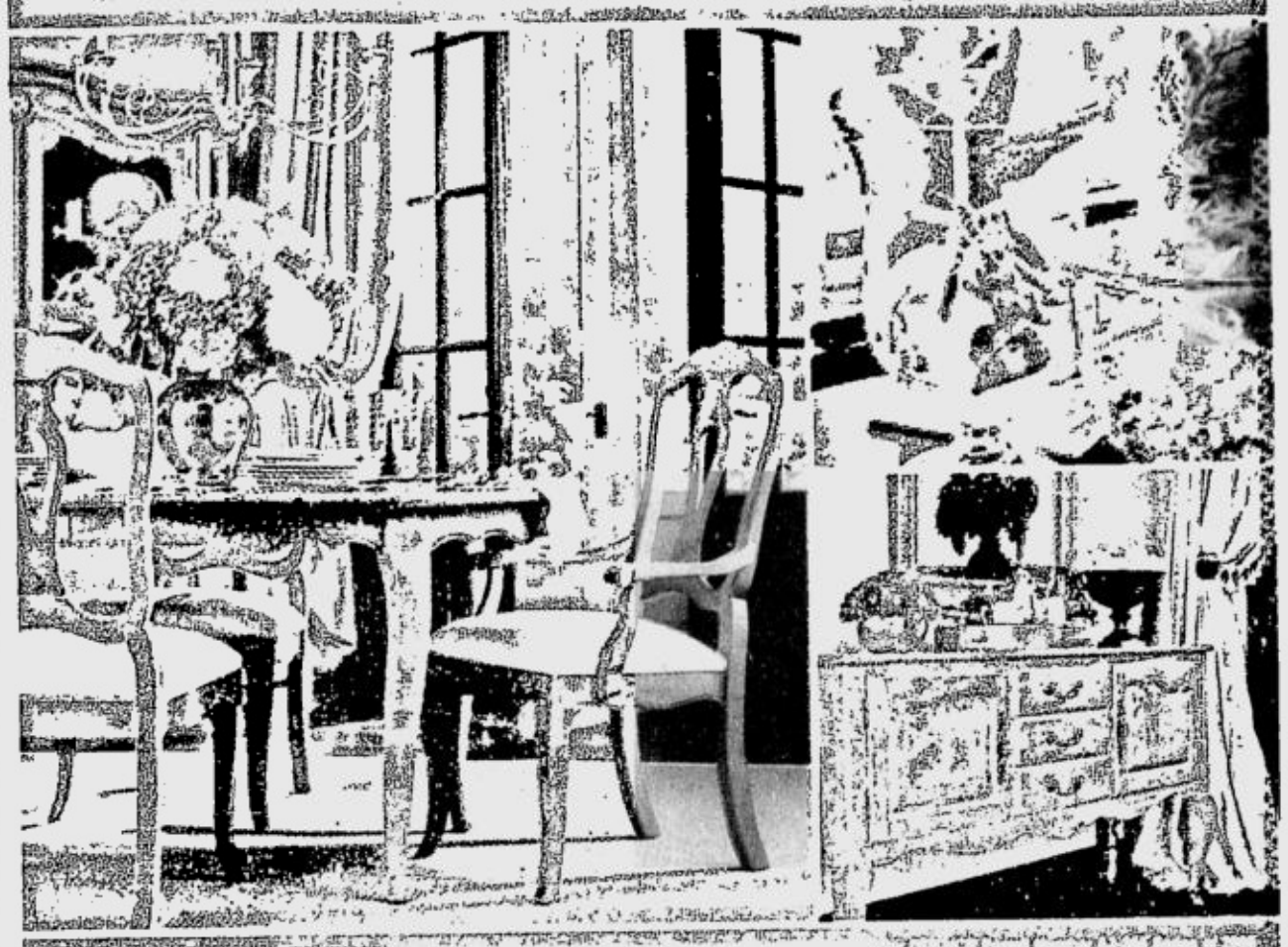

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CROPPED pink cardigan over white tee and cropped pants

STRIPED cotton shirt over sports tee

URBAN basics consist of belted blazer and bell skirt

To mark the launching of its U2 Plus Card, the Hong Kong-based RTW label recently unveiled its latest collection

LIGHT denim jacket over striped cotton tee

Summer casual goes glam

FITTED denim jacket, cotton shirt and slim cropped pants

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

AS TEMPERATURES continue to soar, fans of U2, the Hong Kong-based casual wear brand not to be mistaken for the popular Irish band, can now afford to be more stylish this summer.

To mark the launching of its U2 Plus Card, the RTW label recently unveiled its summer collection consisting of cotton separates and printed tops in a mini fashion show in front of its flagship store in Manila at the Shangri-La Mall. The event was preceded by a cocktail party hosted by Richard Santos, VP for merchandising of Citifashion Specialty Stores Inc.

CSSI, of course, is the same company behind the Cinderella chain of fashion specialty stores and the exclusive Philippine distributor of such imported brands as British India, Esprit, Naf Naf and U2.

The U2 Plus card entitles its holder to a 10-percent discount on both cash and credit card purchases at any of U2's 17 outlets in the Philippines (the brand has a little over 900 stores in Asia and the Middle East). And like most discount cards, this one is also transferable.

Shopaholics can easily get their hands on a U2 Plus Card. They simply need to accumulate P3,000 worth of purchases at any U2 store in the Philippines to avail themselves of it.

Right styling

As far as U2's summer outfits go, the collection was grouped into resort wear and urban wear. But with the right styling and attitude on the part of the wearer, certain pieces can easily cross over from one category to another.

U2 has come up with both male and female versions of the cropped pants. They were paired either with a striped or plain cotton tee for him or a scoop-necked blouse or long-sleeved knitted hoodie for her. Apart from a tank top, the latter is best worn over a bandeau or bra top.

The brand's latest set of urban wear was equally wearable and versatile. Men's outfits consisted mostly of classic sports shirts and cotton twill slacks in the most flattering cuts and colors. U2 paid homage to the female figure with pants, pencil skirts, blazers and cotton tops that were cut close to the body.

And lest people forget what the affair was all about, a number of female models wore dangling earrings, necklaces and bracelets fashioned from U2 Plus Cards—the better to remind people it was time to hit U2 stores.

PRINTED Hawaiian shirt for him, sleeveless and fitted blouse for her

SURFING geisha short-sleeved cotton PJ and Jelly Bean Spa Wrap

Trendy, flirty lingerie

CREATING top-of-the-line lingerie and bringing style to the boudoir since 1977, international designer Natori has proven that nothing tops the luxurious feel of cool silk against bare skin.

This year, the designer signs off her Spring/Summer collection for the Josie and the Natori lines with well-crafted pieces that raise the notch in loungewear fashion into another level.

Using the most comfortable materials—silk, cotton and terry cloth—and applying the most intricate and unexpected details, Natori confirms yet again that sexiness is not about flash or pomp but is rather about comfort and ease with one's own (lingerie-clad) skin.

The Josie line offers an array of trendy sleepwear in delicious shades of blue and pink that can persuade anyone to forego the usual sweatpants and oversized shirts in favor of something more chic.

Floral-patterned chemises and camisoles that come with matching wraps cut fun, flirty figures with their surprise details such as slim dotted straps and delicate ruffles.

Natori's slim-cut cotton jammies are anything but sleep-inducing with their Asian-inspired prints. The poolside-worthy spa wraps, made of terry cloth and in a delectable shade of aquamarine, make for a perfect evening of in-house indulgence.

Even the collection's basic but breezy sleepshirt looks chic in its crisp cotton glory and candy-colored lace piping. Indeed, the youthful look of this latest line can give life and fun into any stay-at-home evening.

For its Spring/Summer 2005 collection, the Natori lingerie line indulges every lady's sensual side with designs that feature exquisite laces, enchanting embroideries and sumptuous silks. Lingerie basics are given extra flair with eye-catching patterns in the coolest colors: the classic robe gets stylized with jungle tropic prints and a simple wrap becomes sexy with delicate embroidery.

The line also introduces variety with patterned silk caftans that redefine Middle Eastern chic. As comfortable as they are easy on the eyes, these latest Natori creations simply tempt to be flaunted not just inside the bedroom but outside of it as well.

Josie Natori is exclusively distributed by Stores Specialists, Inc., and is available at Rustan's Makati and Rustan's Tower.

JUNGLE Tropic Robe

ORCHID Swirl Caftan

PARADISE Lost Cami PJ, Jelly Bean Skimmer Dress and Imagine Chemise with Wrap

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- a student

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FOR BEGINNERS AND TEENS (HANDS-ON)
April 27, Wed. 9:30 am – 3:30 pm BEGINNER & TEEN COOKING 1 Macaroni & Cheese, Tacos, Thin-Crust Pizza: 4 cheese, Pepperoni etc. Cream of Mushroom Soup, Mini- Apple Pies ala Mode, Brownies P2,200
May 3, Tues. 9:30 am – 3:30 pm BEGINNERS and TEEN COOKING 2 Siomai, Calamares, Sukiyaki, Sulpicao, Chili con Carne, Carbonara, Fried Chicken with different kinds of Gravy, Mango Jubillee, P 2,200
May 6, Friday 9:30 am - 12: 30 pm BEGINNERS and TEEN COOKING 3 Mozarella Cheesesticks, Steak with Creamy Mashed Potatoes, Ceasar's Salad, Cinnamon Rolls, Marble Cake, Chocolate Fondue P 2,200

April 28 & April 29 (Thrus. & Friday) 2 Day Japanese Workshop 9 am - 12:30 pm Japanese Stock and Sauce Preparation: Dashi, Tempura Sauce, Okomiyaki, Teriyaki Fried Preparation: Tempura (Shrimp and Vegetable, Tempura Pancake, Tonkatsu, Ebi to bita no kawari-age (Japanese Cracker); Chicken Teriyaki, Teriyaki Salmon, Sukiyaki, Gyoza, Rice cooked with Mushroom P 3,300
May 2, Monday 8:30 – 12: 30 MASTERING CHEESECAKES Classic New York Cheesecake, Maida Heatter's Bullseye Cheesecake, No Bake Lemon and Raspberry Cheesecake, Smoked Salmon and Chive Hors d'-oeuvres Cheesecake P 2,200
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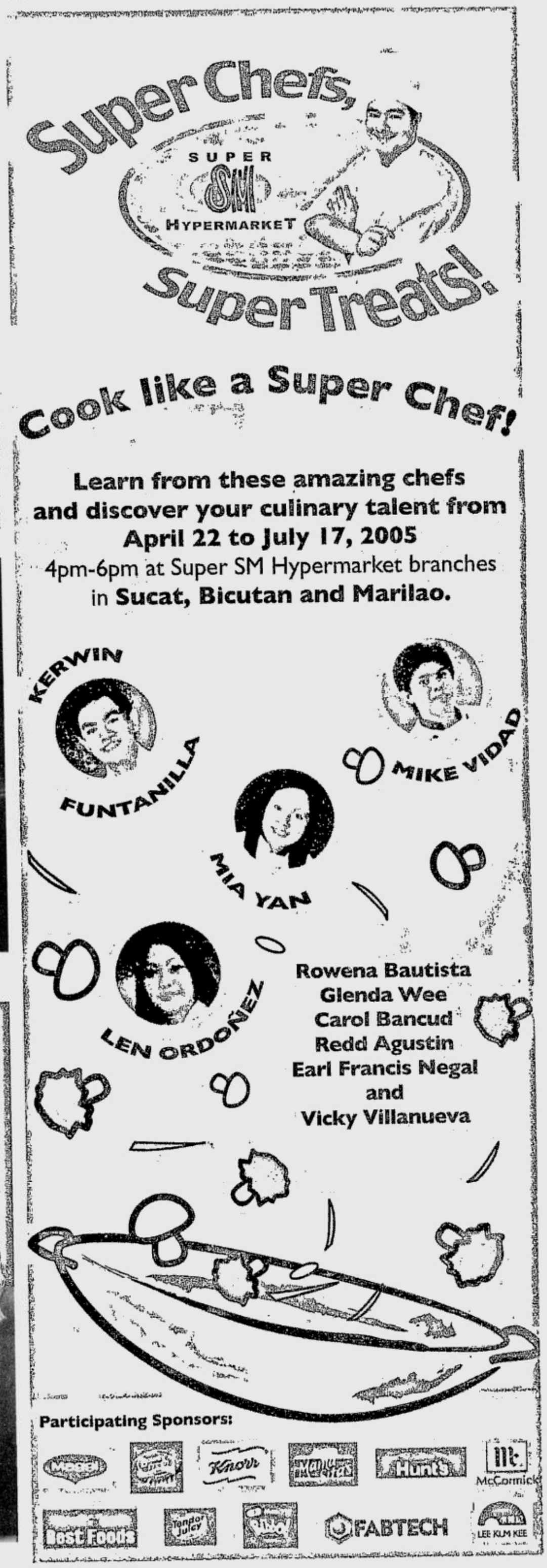
All Classes are Hands-On. Please bring aprons and large food containers. Portions are generous.



What summer bliss means to Chin-Chin Gutierrez

SUMMER spells freshness and comfort for actress and environmental advocate Chin-Chin Gutierrez. This is why she loves Lhasa Clothing's fuss-free, all-day apparel.

Gutierrez, who claims she is neither a shopaholic nor a fashionista, appreciates Lhasa for clothes that suit her own personal style and public persona.

Lhasa, she says, allows her to look elegantly feminine and stay well pressed through her busy working day—whether she's coming from an environmental workshop in the morning then straight to a TV shoot or to a social function later in the night. What's more, she adds that Lhasa's versatility is complemented by good quality, wrinkle-free fabric and reasonable pricing.

WHITE poncho on inner knitted tube and white cotton pants with slide pockets

KNIT bolero in seedling green on haltered floral top with ruffles and neck strap, and beige pants with front French pockets

OLD-ROSE blouse with tussle and chocolate brown pants with back French pockets

"The clothes perk you up," says Gutierrez. "They make you wear a smile and a feeling of felicity when you're in them."

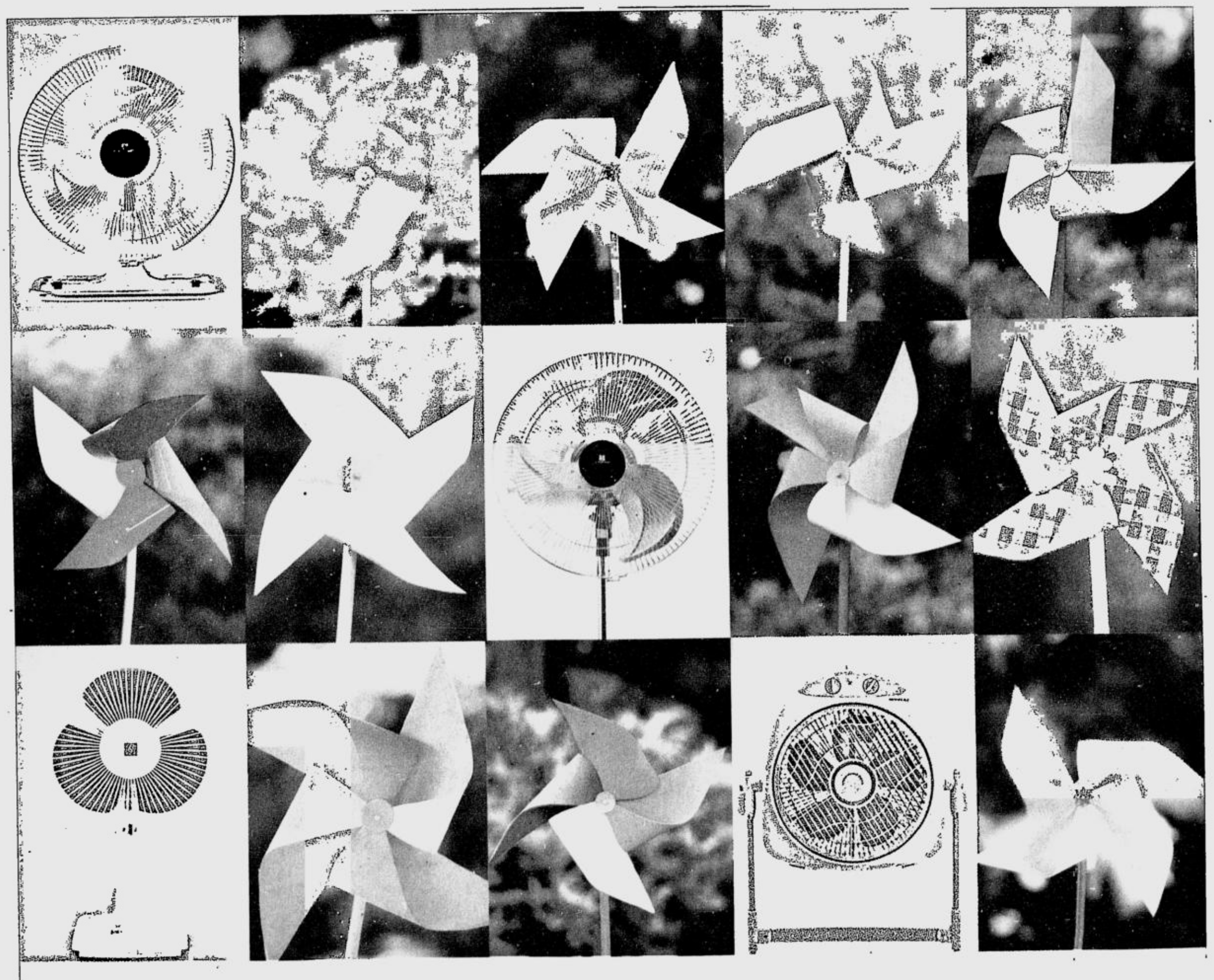
Creative details make Lhasa clothes stand out. Buttons, fine stitching, drawstrings, ties, ribbons and belts, smooth lines for suit pants and fit form for tops add fun and excitement to each Lhasa item.

Its knitted summer wear collection consisting of off-shoulder blouses, boleros and ponchos in vibrant hues and stripes is perfect for meeting clients outside the office or as cover for a beach outing.

"Whether I feel sporty, down-easy, corporate or dressy, Lhasa gives me both comfort and style. From the film set to the streets, Lhasa has become part of my lifestyle," says Gutierrez.

Lhasa outlets are located at Glorietta 2 in Ayala Center, HIP at the Power Plant Mall, Robinsons Galleria Expansion Mall in Ortigas Center, Festival Supermall in Alabang, SM City Pampanga and SM City Dasmariñas, Cavite. Call customer service at 0917-6236470, e-mail lhasa@lhasaclothing.com; or visit lhasaclothing.com.

STRIPED marine aqua-and-white poncho with tussle and white cotton pants with side pockets



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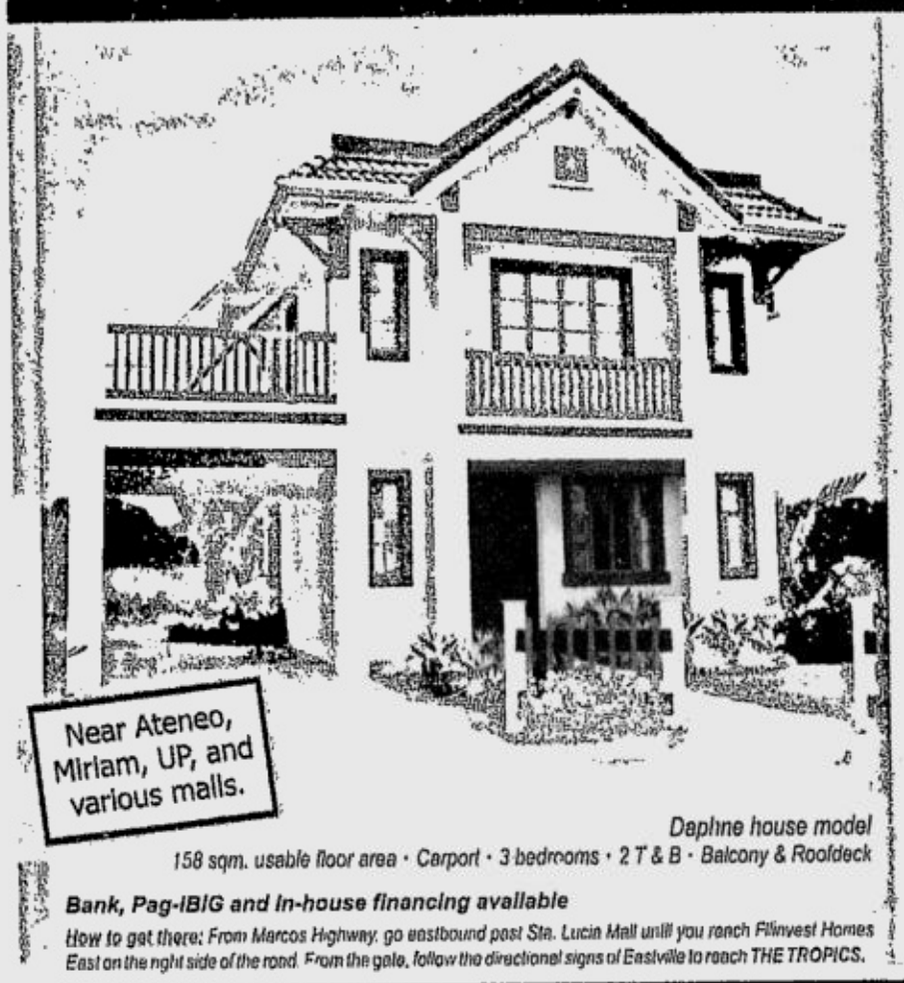
AUSTRALIA bares its brand of relaxed and laid-back fashions in Manila.

Aussie chic

STORY ON PAGE F2

Discover new beginnings here at The Tropics



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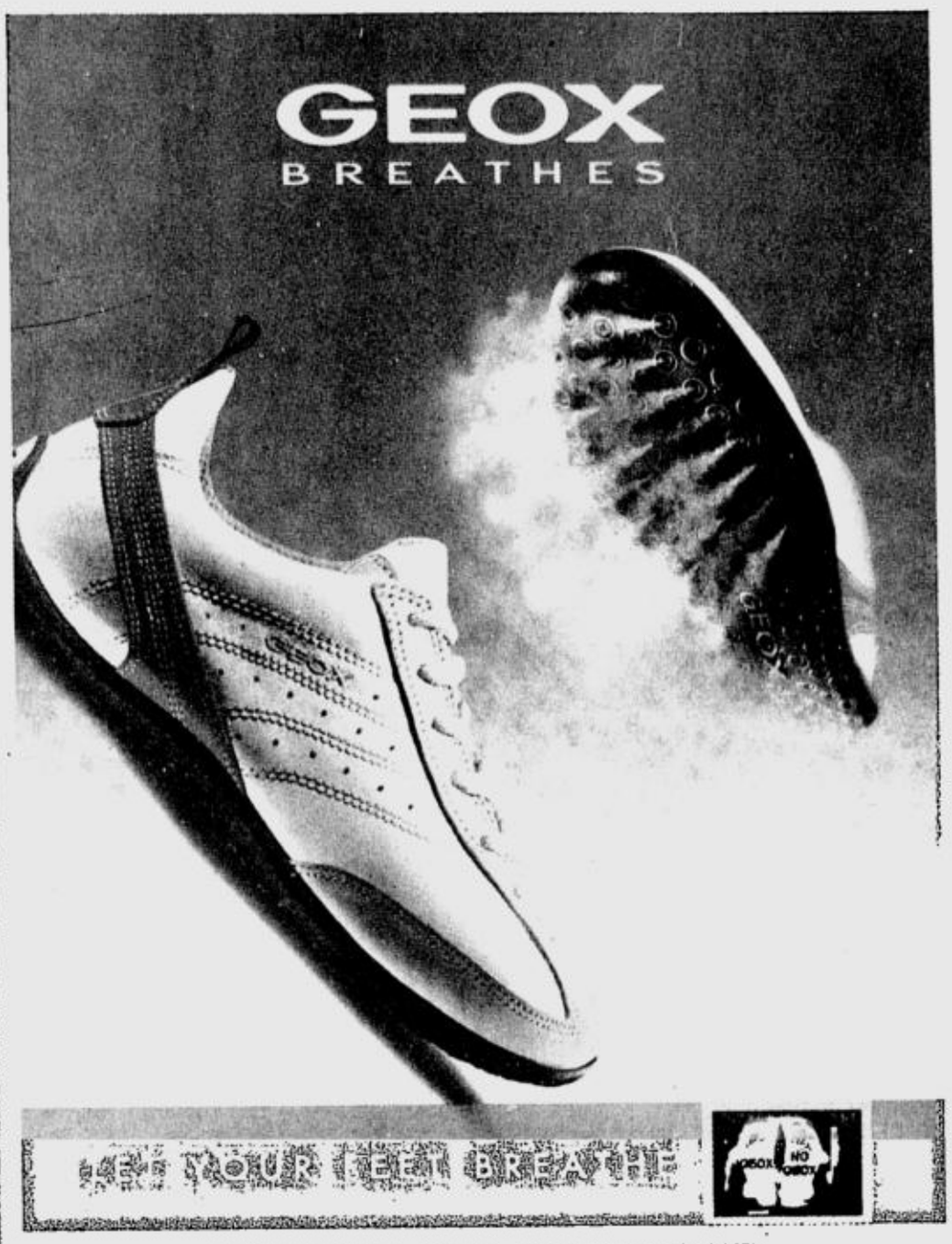

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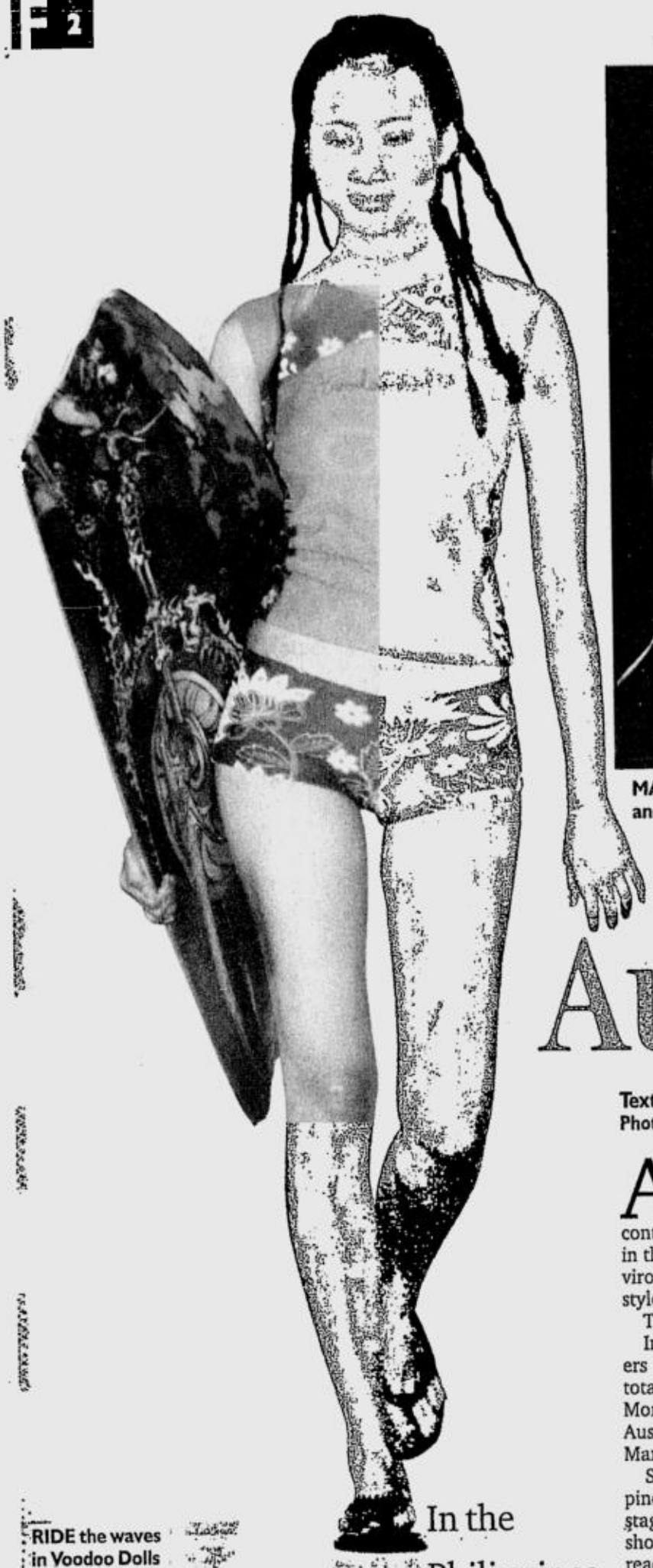

RIDE the waves in Voodoo Dolls

MAKING WAVES. Australian surf and swimwear brands like Baku, Ginja, Heaven, Seafolly, Wahine, Tigerlily, Zimmermann, Voodoo Dolls and Billabong are out to entice Pinoy waterbabies.

Aussie chic

YOUNG and "fabulOZ"

In the Philippines where jeans and T-shirts are a daily uniform, Australia's relaxed fashion style seems a good fit

Text by Cheche V. Moral
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

AUSTRALIA'S 20 million-plus population is a wee bit small a market for its ready-to-wear fashion labels. So the continent is actively looking to its neighbors in the Asia-Pacific region for a hospitable environment for its laid-back, beach-friendly styles.

The strategy seems to be working.

In the Philippines alone, some local retailers have already welcomed into their fold a total of 23 Australian labels, reports Alan Morrell, senior trade commissioner of the Australian Trade Commission (Austrade) in Manila.

Such is Austrade's optimism in the Philippine market that, for the first time, it recently staged "FabulOZ Fashions," the first fashion show in Manila to showcase all-Australian ready-to-wear brands, at the pool area of the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel.

"There's a growing interest across Asia for Australian fashion," says Morrell, "that we decided to stage this show so that other retailers may take notice of Australian fashion brands."

"FabulOZ Fashions" featured labels available in Rustan's, Chocolate Clothing Company, Nothing But Water and Stoked Inc. It was a varied mix of surf and swimwear, street fashions and party frocks from labels like Billabong, Zimmermann, Wahine, Morrissey, Marcs, Tigerlily, Earth Angel, Grab, among others.

Morrell, who has lived in Manila for the past two years, notes that Filipinos are quite fashion-conscious, and he feels the relaxed styles offered by young designers from Down Under would fit in with Filipinos' style sensibilities.

Austrade's role is to help Australian companies find markets outside of the continent, Morrell says. "Fashion is not our major industry, and with our population of only 20 million, it's a very small market for our designers. We try to assist our young talents to target markets overseas."

According to him, the presence of labels from Oz is increasingly growing in other Asian cities like Bangkok, Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur. And these are not strictly fashion brands. There are also products for personal care, spa and wellness, makeup and skincare.

Creating awareness

Though Morrell has a Philippine equivalent from the Department of Trade Industry based in Sydney, whose role is also to create awareness for Filipino brands there, he says there's no active program between the Philippines and Australia to promote respective products in either country.

"We don't give 'incentives' to Philippine retailers," he clarifies. "Our role is only to introduce them to labels that they can bring here."

He says the Australian government is doing all it can to help its fashion upstarts, not only in promoting their end products but in training them as well. "The [Australian] government is focused on education. Today there are more fashion design courses for young talents to teach them everything they need to know."

In order to sell in Asian cities, Australian brands have scaled the sizes of their clothes to fit the typically smaller Asian frame, adds Morrell.

The trade commissioner is well aware of the popularity of European and American labels in Manila. But instead of being daunted by it, he feels Australia can turn it to its advantage. Filipinos have a liking for imported labels, he says, and his country has midrange brands that won't break the limited budgets of local fashionistas.

"We have young designers [who come out with] vibrant colors and designs," he says. "The styles are not meant to be 'Australiana,' but ones that reflect the Australian lifestyle, which is more relaxed."

In the Philippines where jeans and T-shirts are a daily uniform, that style seems to fit.

And Morrell doesn't at all find the country's volatile economy unsettling. "We try not to look at the macroeconomic [level] because we're not looking into a short-term thing. The Philippines is an interesting market. It's very promising."

NOT JUST WATER. Oz trendy labels like Earth Angel, Endless Spirit, Grab, Mink, Baby Doll, Industrie, Marcs, Morrissey and Third Millennium also aim a piece of RP's retail market.

STREET fashions from SMP and Shy

BILLABONG

THE 23 fashion brands from Down Under are distributed locally by Rustan's, Chocolate Clothing Company, Nothing But Water and Stoked Inc.

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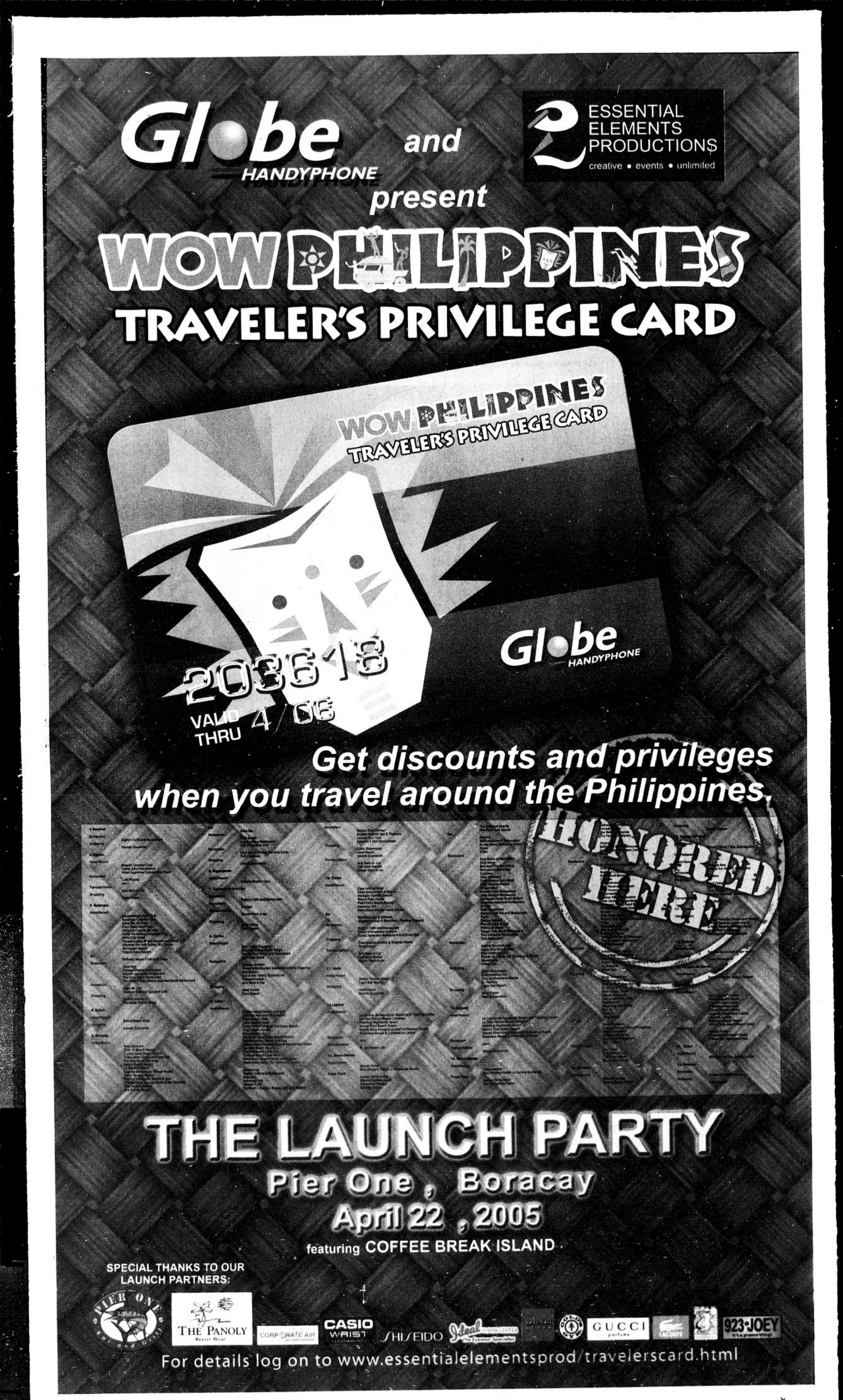

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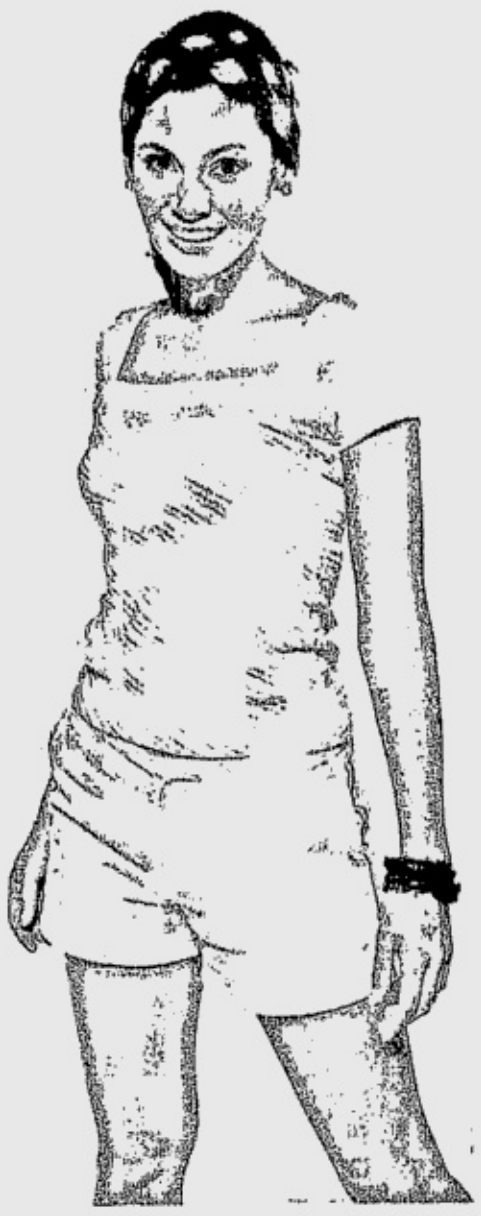
ALL white brings out the summery fresh look

GET all colorful with shades of pink, blue and yellow to brigthen up your khakis



HIGHLIGHT your typical T-shirt-short outfit with a contrast of blue bandana and bracelets.

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Flattering stripes

STRIPES make you fat. Well, that happens to be one of the greatest fallacies in fashion history. In fact, horizontal stripes are not dreadful, and vertical stripes are always slimming.

ForMe, the figure-friendly fashion brand, introduces a new collection of striped tops for every body type, as shown by four top models.

Former Bb. Pilipinas Zora Andam is endowed with full hips and narrow shoulders, making her body type a triangle. For a more balanced look, Zora wears a bright pink, horizontal-striped polo with v-placket matched with light khaki capris. The brightness of the stripes and the shape of the neckline immediately catch one's attention, drawing the eyes toward the top and veering away from the problem area, which is the hip.

Flamenco enthusiast Astrud Crisologo is Zora's opposite. She's more top heavy, which is why she's considered an inverted triangle type. To create an illusion of a leaner top, she wears a bias striped tee with an asymmetrical neckline paired with light twill pants. The trick is to make an optical impression of a slimmer top that goes well with her sexy pair of legs.

Meanwhile, ramp model Joan Bitagcol has long, straight lines from top to bottom, which is very much like a rectangle. To give her body extra shape and contour, Joan wears a bias striped tee with V-neck and drawstring pants to match. The shirt's "v" and inverted "v" stripes meeting at the middle create an illusion of an hourglass shape.

Hourglass women like commercial model Maike Evers have proportioned shoulders and hips with curved waists. This body type calls for clothes that flaunt the wares, so to speak.

Thus Maike opts for a diagonal-striped top with a solid U-neckline and lightweight twill shorts. The collarbone-baring neckline and figure-flattering stripes emphasize the proportioned top, while the cool, lightweight shorts dramatize her long lean legs.

ForMe is available at SM Megamall, SM North Edsa, SM Pampanga, SM Southmall, Robinsons Galleria, Festival Mall and Market! Market!

High-performance watches from Nike

THE NEW Nike Triax 3i and Triax 3h follow in the footsteps of the original series, with a new perspective on speed. The design of large, analog faces were based on high-performance sports cars. Its features are an S-shaped, precurved strap for better fit, luminescent hand and face markings for quick read, an aluminum face shield, mineral glass crystal, stainless steel buckle and back plate for enhanced durability, and 100-meter water resistance. The Triax 3i also has a 12/24-hour day and date subdials. Kids also get the action of Nike Triax through Nike Fly and Nike Roar. Available at all Nike outlets, L Time Studio and other authorized Nike Timing retailers nationwide.

NIKE Timing Triax 3i3h3

IT'S MICKEY on girls' tees! /G4

LIFESTYLE

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Majestic coronation and party in Iloilo

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by Alex Van Hagen using Kodak EasyShare system

PRINCE Consort Simon Martin Aparri, Princess Marie Deniece Silan, Prince Consort Joseph Michael Aparri, Princess Julie Rose Taleon, Queen Rita Carla Peña, King Consort Oscar Reuben Nava, Princess Guia Marie Gatuslao, Prince Consort Paco Luis Siscar, Princess Anna Marie Badayos and Prince Consort Gordon Guillargan

THERE are parties and then there are great parties. One of the really great and memorable ones recently to *moi* was given in Iloilo City, dahlings, by my *palanggas*, **Rito Carlos "Judgee" Lopez-Peña** and his wife, vivaciously adorable **Sarah Opolencia-P.** The party was to celebrate their daughter's coronation as Queen of Jaro, a prestigious title bestowed on a young lady usually coming from the old-money gentry.

After all, Jaro, for your info, was considered as the country's "first millionaires row." This was during the early 1900s.

"Her Majesty," **Rita Carla Peña**, Ferdinandina I, Queen of Jaro for 2005, can be described as a girl truly made of sugar and spice and everything nice, the kind any parent would be proud to present to society.

Rita is brilliant and has accomplished tons of things, *palanggas*. She's a recipient of the Mother Marie Eugene Award in grade school and high school at Assumption-Iloilo.

She was also chosen as Girl Mayor of Iloilo City over 120 other contestants. And Rita has just graduated from the Ateneo de Manila University, with a BS Management degree major in Legal Management and minor in International Business. She was a Dean's Lister, no less.

She also supports the education of 126 children through the foundation she has put up, with free school supplies and summer classes. Yes, go girl!

Rita is descended from the late Judge **Remegio Montilla-Peña** and **Yolanda "Bobbie" Javellana-Lopez Vda. de Peña**, daughter of the late former Vice President **Fernando Hofilena-Lopez** and Doña **Mariquit Javellana-Lopez.**

On the other hand, Rita's maternal grandparents were the late **Cristino Villavicencio-Opolencia** and **Tarcila Lambot.**

Rita has two younger sisters, **Risa Maria Lourdes**, a 16-year-old student at the Philippine Science High School in Iloilo City, and 8-year-old **Rica Marie Isabel**, an outstanding student who is incidentally the Queen of Jaro Children's Fancy Dress Ball for 2005.

The beautiful vast garden of Judgee and Sarah Peña in the exclusive Ledesco Village in Iloilo looked even more immense and beautiful. Everywhere you looked, you'd see hot name-droppables such as the radiant **Elena Javellana** with daughter **Lee** and hubby **Alfred Palmeras.**

Also there were the reserved but *muy elegante* First Lady of

MAJESTIC/ G3

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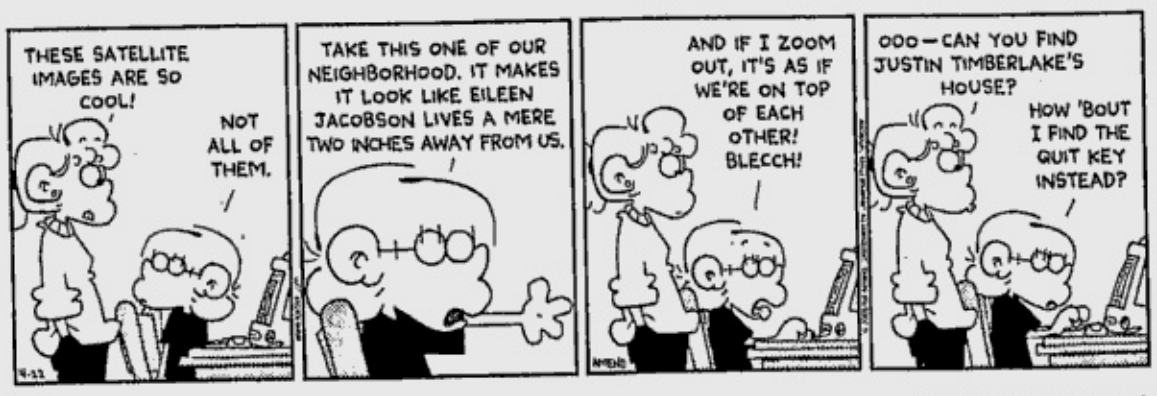
FRIDAY, APRIL 22, 2005

FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND



A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA

MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG

PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS

THE BLACK SMOKE FROM THE SISTINE CHAPEL SIGNALLED THE DELAY OF THE PAPAL ELECTION AND WORSENED ROME'S AIR POLLUTION

MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're a down-to-earth, organized person. You know how to get things done. You have fabulous organizational abilities. You're very comfortable with power. (You won't let others boss you around!) You work hard, but you need appreciation for your efforts. Without this, you're dejected. A lovely, social year ahead promises fun and romance.
Birthdate of: Charles Mingus, musician; Aaron Spelling, producer/director; Jack Nicholson, actor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): This is a wonderful day to enjoy the company of others. You get along easily with partners and close friends. Everyone loves you! Get out there and schmooze with the best of them.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): This is an extremely upbeat, friendly day at work. People are helpful and cooperative. Travel for work is likely. You see ways to expand things to include more of what you want.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Ooh la la! Thank goodness it's Friday. And maybe happy hour? This is a fun-loving day. Accept invitations to party. Enjoy talking to others. Catch a movie or watch professional sports.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): This is an excellent day for real estate deals. It's also a wonderful day to make everyone at home feel comfy and secure. Take home a little gift for a loved one. (You'll be appreciated.)

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): It's a busy day, but you love the buzz. You feel confident and optimistic about everything. Because of this, others are drawn to you. (That's because enthusiasm is contagious.)

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): This is a good day for commerce, business and financial transactions. You can make money today. You might also spend money. (If you're spending, make sure you don't go overboard.)

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Today the Moon is in your sign, and it lines up with lucky Jupiter. This makes you feel great! You believe in yourself, and you believe in good things yet to come.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Look for opportunities to practice generosity today. Not only will it benefit and please others, but it will make you feel wonderful!

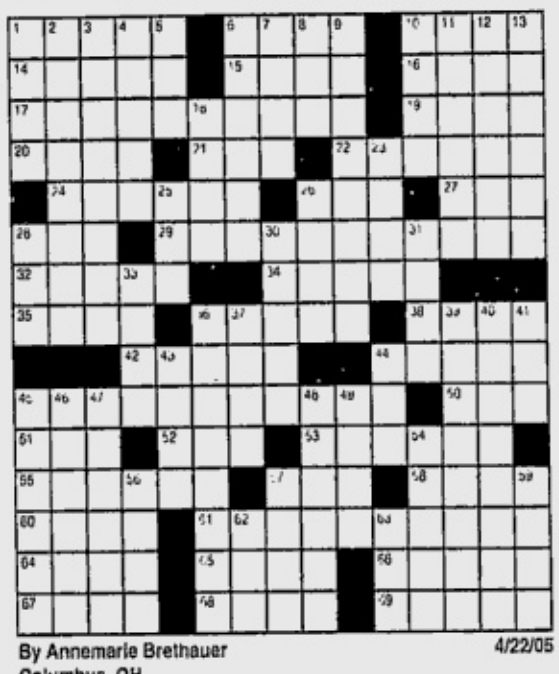
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You might have an opportunity to work with others to benefit those less fortunate than you. At the very least, you'll get together with others to laugh it up and share the wealth.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You make a wonderful impression on others today. Get out there and flash your dazzle! Your positive attitude attracts others to you now.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You definitely have wanderlust today. You want more of the world! Do something different from your daily routine.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Someone will be generous to you today. This generosity might be large, or it might be small. It might be tangible or intangible. Make sure to express your gratitude.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Annemarie Brethauer
Columbus, OH
4/22/05

ACROSS
1 Spiritual nourishment
6 Sonic sound
10 Jazz sessions
14 Where lovers walk?
15 Reverse
16 Relative diagram
17 2003 Farrelly brothers movie
19 Supplies with weapons
20 Web location
21 Monkey suit
22 Play text
24 Reproduce illegally
26 Today's OSS
27 Born in Paris
28 Comfy shoe
29 Roller coaster caveat
32 Ansel or Samuel
34 Hardship
35 Sub seller
36 Thwarts
38 Gumbo veggie
42 Baleen whale food
44 More exclusive
45 Lose one's cool
50 Horse morsel
51 Styled after
52 Bering or Baltic
53 Flora
55 Fairway clumps
57 Fancy tub
58 Gob's hail
60 Equal
61 Hard and fast
64 Fork part
65 Correct text
66 Mirren or Hunt
67 Cheeky lip
68 Small rowboat
69 Opportunistic operators

DOWN
1 Velvety flora
2 Diametrical opposite
3 Sea-going
4 Of better character
5 Large, roomy boat
6 Director of "The Exterminating Angel"
7 Striped chalcedony
8 "Star Trek" role for Auberjonois
9 Hook-and-eye guards
10 Headliner
11 Going astray
12 Indonesian soybean cake
13 Sonnet finale
18 Milanese eight
23 "Censor" of Rome
25 Satisfied sounds
26 Spiral
28 Like one Hatter
30 Practice
31 Heavy metal Maiden
33 Slugger Schmidt
36 Used a ruse
37 Gymnast Korbut
39 Board flaw
40 Harry of "60 Minutes"
41 __ deco
43 Oxidation
44 Wash. neighbor
45 USMA students
46 De Havilland of Hollywood
47 Experts
48 Presumptuous
49 Panache
54 Archibald and Thurmond
56 Singles
57 Mix
59 Hankerings
62 Tokyo, once
63 Egyptian deity

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

H	I	P	P	O	■	L	A	N	A	I	■	R	O	E
A	C	O	R	N	■	A	L	O	E	S	■	I	S	R
W	E	L	E	A	R	N	F	R	O	M	■	O	B	I
■	■	■	P	I	E	■	A	T	L	■	A	T	O	N
R	E	T	A	R	D	S	■	H	I	S	T	O	R	Y
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G	I	L	■	F	R	O	M	H	I	S	T	O	R	Y
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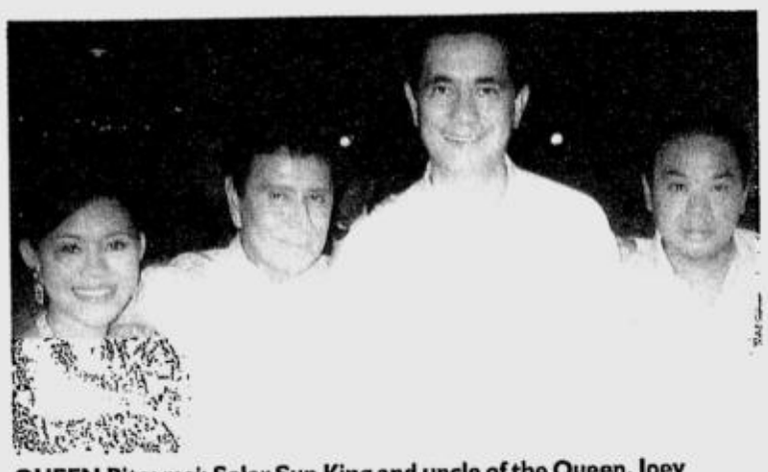


QUEEN Rita; *moi*; Solar Sun King and uncle of the Queen, Joey Puckette; top party organizer Nonoy Ybiernas

TED and Marichel Magalona; Emma Nava, mother of the king consort; tall, good-looking Oscar Reuben Nava and his sister Alyssa

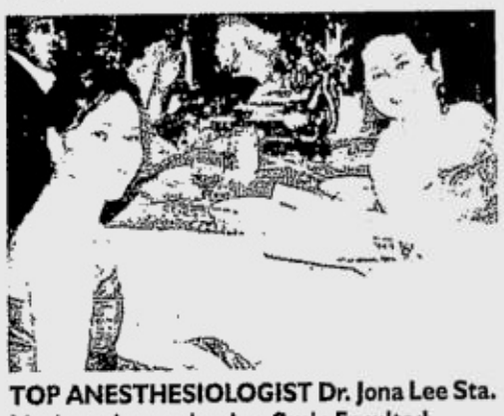
JUDGEE Peña, Dr. Ruby Miranda, Iloilo's First Lady Rosalie Treñas and Msgr. Amadeo Escañan

Majestic coronation and party in Iloilo

JETTING in from Manille. Yuki Sato, Nening Manahan and Delly Yap

MANILLE invitees. Ana Pamplona, lawyer Tito Tesoro and Mary Garlicki

PROUD parents. Socialite Sarah Opolencia Peña and husband, Southern businessman Judgee Peña



TOP ANESTHESIOLOGIST Dr. Jona Lee Sta. Maria and mega banker Susie Facultad

From page G1

Iloilo, **Rosalie Sarabia-Treñas**, with her sister **Gina Sarabia-Espinosa**, who came with hubby **Joe Espinosa III**; violinist **Gilopez Kabayao** and **Corazon Pineda-Kabayao**; men-about-town **Joemarie Treñas, Zafiro Ledesma Jr.** and **Tom Griffins**; our very own religion chronicler, **Josie Darang**; Iloilo's top social writer and party organizer **Nonoy D. Ybiernas**; popular **John Castigador**; **Martin Soriano**; Bacolod's king of the smart set, **Edouard Garcia**; business magnate **Henry Babiera**, president and chair of the board of Lombija Wildlife Research Foundation Inc.; and international documentary filmmakers **David** and **Hazel Andrea-Stuart**.

Judgee P.'s biker pals from the VOG VMAX Owners Group Ltd, headed by **Renato "Junjun" Osmeña**, drove all the way from Cebu to Iloilo. They were ferried the next day to Tamsik, Guimaras, the Peñas' *tres* private island, for some more partying.

The grand coronation took place at the Jaro Plaza Auditorium. In the huge covered court, the Peñas once again entertained their guests, *palanggas*.

Rita was breathtaking in an off-white gossamer silk gown, traced in gold threads and embedded with thousands of Swarovski crystals created to perfection by her London-based uncle, **Bobi Rodero**, who works with one of the big fashion houses in London, frequented by the royal famille.

A velvet cape, a glittering tiara, plus her mom's sparklers completed the queenly ensemble.

And speaking of the mother. Sarah O. Peña, too, looked *tres* chic in a creamy satin confection, accentuated by a black feather, by **Jojie Lloren**.

Judgee was in a tux and tie.

Iloilo City Rep. **Raul Gonzales Jr.** proclaimed Rita Peña Queen of Jaro 2005, together with Iloilo City Mayor **Jerry P. Treñas**. They were assisted by **Gerian Gallon Salcedo**, Queen of Jaro 2004, and Msgr. **Amadeo Escañan**, parish priest of the Jaro Metropolitan Cathedral.

The famous Jaro fiesta is in honor of Nuestra Señora de Candelaria.

A trophy from President **Macapagal-Arroyo** was presented to the queen.

Enjoying the grand coronation were **Ruth Javelosa, Baby Almeda, Sandra Sarabia-Gomez**, Dr. **Malbar Ferrer** with wife **Gina**, Iloilo City councilor **Jeffrey Ganzon, Jim Velez** with wife **Lolita, Nonoy Braga**, Dr. **Renato Alba** with wife **Lolita**; and ballet dancer and figure ice skater **Kristine R. Velez**, *palanggas*.

Toward the end, a "de Valse de Honor" was participated in by the Who's Who of Metro Iloilo *alta sociedad*.

After the royal march and dance, Judgee Lopez-Peña and Sarah Opolencia-Peña closed the grand coronation with a short thank you. Gorgeous fireworks followed, while we all partook of the yummy hors d'oeuvres and overflowing delights by **Pauline Gorriceta-Banusing** of Al Dente Ristorante Italiano.

The guests applauded the social director, **Bony Gaverza**, and choreographers **JP Libo-on** and **Julius Soliesta** for a fab presentation, and the overall chair of the Jaro Agro-Industrial and Charity Fair, **Juliet Diamante**, for a job superbly done!

Later, an all-night rock and ballroom dancing to the music of the **Totong Villaruz** Band rocked the whole place. I could have imagined Queen Rita humming the tune, "I could have danced all night!" as she danced until past the crowing of the rooster.

Now, that's an awesome coronation, Southern style, *palanggas*.

QUEEN Rita's pink terno made of the finest Indian sari, elegantly and exquisitely designed by Patis Tesoro

HOTSHOT Ilonggos. Nonoy Braga, Ted Magalona and Iloilo City Councilor Joe Espinosa III

DR. KRISTIN Treñas, Amanda Treñas and Bessie Ayco, all in Patis Tesoro gowns

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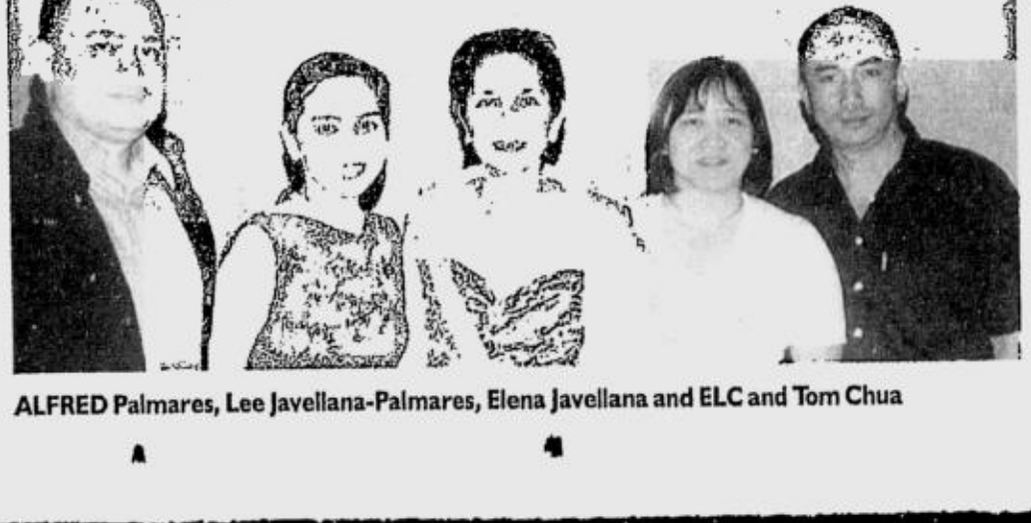
SINGAPORE QUALITY CLASS

LTO director Gerry Camiña and wife Lut C.

SUGAR magnate Jungie Morquinos and Henry Babiera

TWO QUEENS, their sister, parents and a consort



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PAROKYA NI EDGAR PIDO with TAKE 1 PINIKPIKAN
RJ and FRIENDS SPONGE COLA SUGAR FREE
TRUE FAITH 7 SHOTS feat.PIKASO,SVC,DASH,PHAT BONE,MIKE SWIFT
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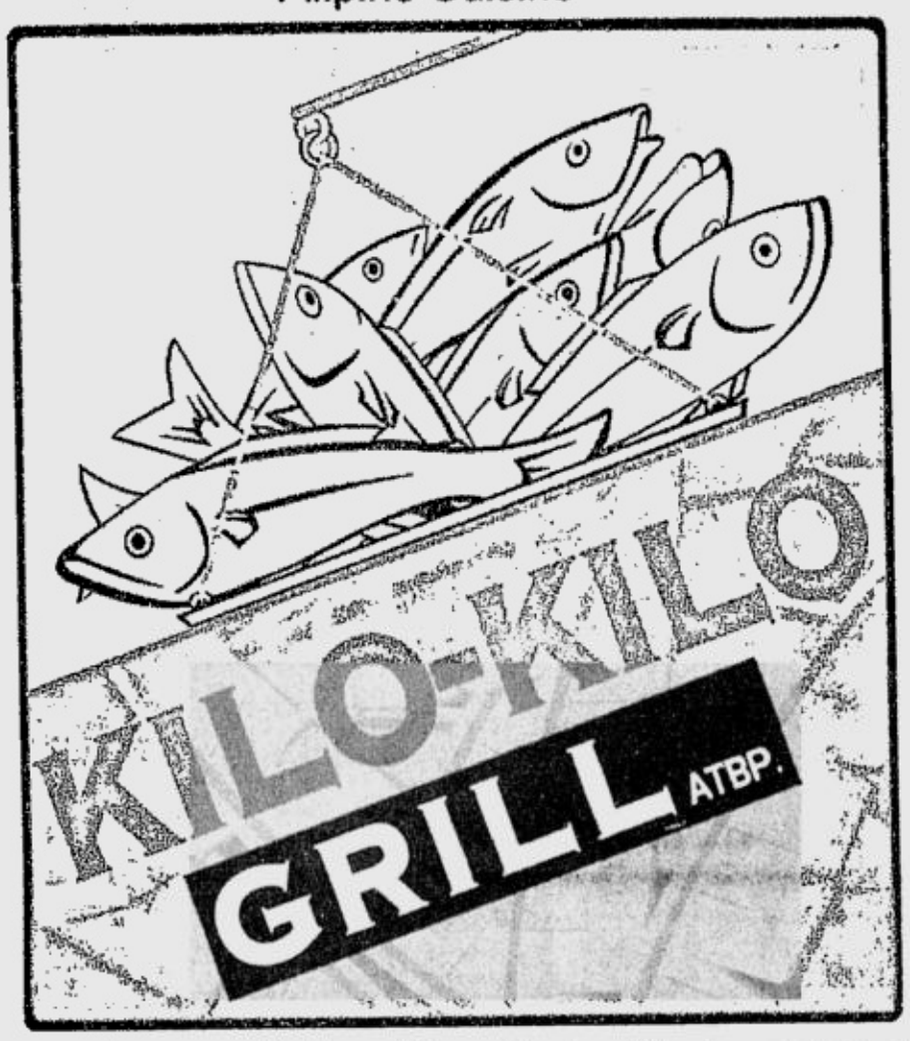


Kilo-kilong bagong huling hito, plapla, tilapia, dalag atbp...
Kilo-kilong inihaw na liempo, spareribs, sari-saring pansit
at ang orihinal na pagkaing luto sa buho
sa napaka MURANG HALAGA

P. Guevarra corner Wilson St., San Juan, Metro Manila. Tel. no. 725 6749

HILARY Duff and friend in their fave tees

It's Mickey on girls' tees!

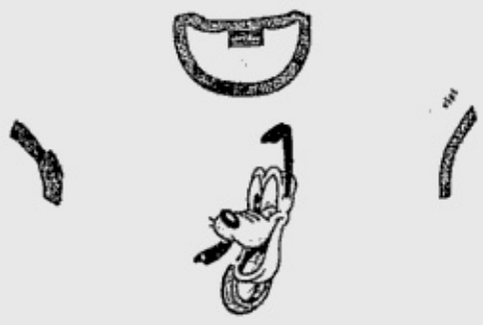
RECENTLY, cartoon characters on clothing have been showing up everywhere. When rhinestones and lace are paired with a classic cartoon character, then you've got yourself a winning look!

Four years ago, Disney began with a simple but ambitious idea: place a Mickey Mouse T-shirt on the backs (and fronts) of the world's most influential celebrities to create consumer awareness and demand—and to remind everyone that a simple T-shirt that has the power to make people smile is always in fashion.

Soon after, the pages of the world's leading celebrity and fashion magazines were filled with images of Mickey at the trendiest events and the most glamorous locations.

We've seen the Vintage Mickey Tee on several celebrities like Lenny Kravitz, Gina Gershon, Avril Lavigne, John Mayer, Kirsten Dunst, Geri Haliwell and Hilary Duff. Jennifer Aniston, in the heyday of "Friends," was photographed wearing a Vintage Mickey tee. Even stylish Carrie Bradshaw, portrayed by Sarah Jessica Parker of the concluded Sex and the City, got in on the act and wore a yellow Vintage Mickey shirt on the show.

VINTAGE Mickey, blue



VINTAGE Pluto

To this day, stores like Fred Segal in Los Angeles, Harvey Nichols in the UK, Corso Como in Italy, Colette in Paris and Beams in Japan continue to place orders for the Mickey tee, which flies off the shelves from anywhere from $45 to $150 dollars each.

Italian-based fashion giant Dolce & Gabanna's 2004 Fall/Winter ready-to-wear line titled "Hollywood" also featured Mickey, Minnie, Donald and Daisy on sequined T-shirts that retailed for $1,400. This makes Disney the only brand in the world that can sell a $1,400 T-shirt and a $14 t-shirt in the same city on the same day.

Not to be left behind, the line is now made available to Filipino women through Kamiseta, one of the Philippines' leading retail stores for girls.

Kamiseta was approached by the Walt Disney Company with the tie-up, since the brand has always been known to carry trendy quality products for girls. With its large consumer base, wide reach and fashion value, Kamiseta is the perfect springboard for the Vintage Mickey line here in the Philippines.

Fans of Vintage Mickey products can now see their lovable mouse and friends in their fave Kamiseta stores starting this month.

The Kamiseta Vintage Mickey Line features Mickey Mouse, Minnie Mouse, Donald Duck, Daisy Duck, Goofy and Pluto, embellished in lace and rhinestones. Aside from tees, denim jackets and hooded jackets are also available.

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Janet Ley, enjoying her clear, flawless skin.

One satisfied client, Janet Ley, relates her happiness with IPL: "I like it. I really like it because after only my second treatment, my freckles are gone!"

IPL Photorejuvenation Treatment helps banish freckles, dark spots, and spider veins without a trace. According to Janet, "I believe my freckles became more prominent as I got older. So whenever I went out of the house, I would use face powder to cover them up. But now I don't use anything anymore because they're all gone! And now people would tell me that I have really nice, flawless skin."

IPL is a gentle, non-invasive treatment that uses a broad spectrum of light to treat the face, neck, chest, back, hands and virtually anywhere that sun damage or blemishes show. It uses the Intense Pulsed Light technology to correct a variety of skin conditions such as skin imperfections: freckles, skin discoloration, signs of ageing, age spots, unsightly spider veins, broken capillaries, rosacea and other blemishes. Facial Care Centre's Dr. Maria Isabelita Joya says, "IPL's amazing results include: better skin tone, reduced blotchiness, pigmentations and broken blood vessels, smoother surface texture, and a more youthful-looking skin."

To restore an overall youthful look, IPL can simultaneously treat a wide variety of skin concerns safely and effectively. It erases skin damage with minor disruption on the skin's surface unlike other conventional

Dr. Joya performing the IPL Photorejuvenation Treatment on a client.

treatments. As another satisfied client, Dr. Ariel Torres, would attest: "Im an avid golfer so Im very much exposed to the sun. That's how I had freckles. And Ive tried every whitening product you can possibly think of: whitening cream, whitening lotion, sunblock, scrub, I even bought this thing from Hong Kong that you're supposed to drink to lighten your skin...nothing! It lightens up your skin for a while but you can't expose yourself to the sun anymore. And for avid players like me, that's totally unthinkable! So when I tried IPL, I was really impressed. Just after the first treatment, there were already visible, dramatic results! IPL is really the only treatment that worked for me."

Another satisfied client, Dr. Ariel Torres.

Like Dr. Torres and Janet Ley, many satisfied clients have reported a reduction in age spots, freckles, and other skin discoloration. Most women who lead active and busy lifestyles are happy with the fact that aside from the visible improvement in their skin, they experience relatively no downtime. This means that one can actually have fairer, even-toned, glowing skin after approximately 30 minutes of treatment, and can go to work on the same day, as if nothing happened at all!

Dr. Maria Isabelita Joya with the IPL machine.

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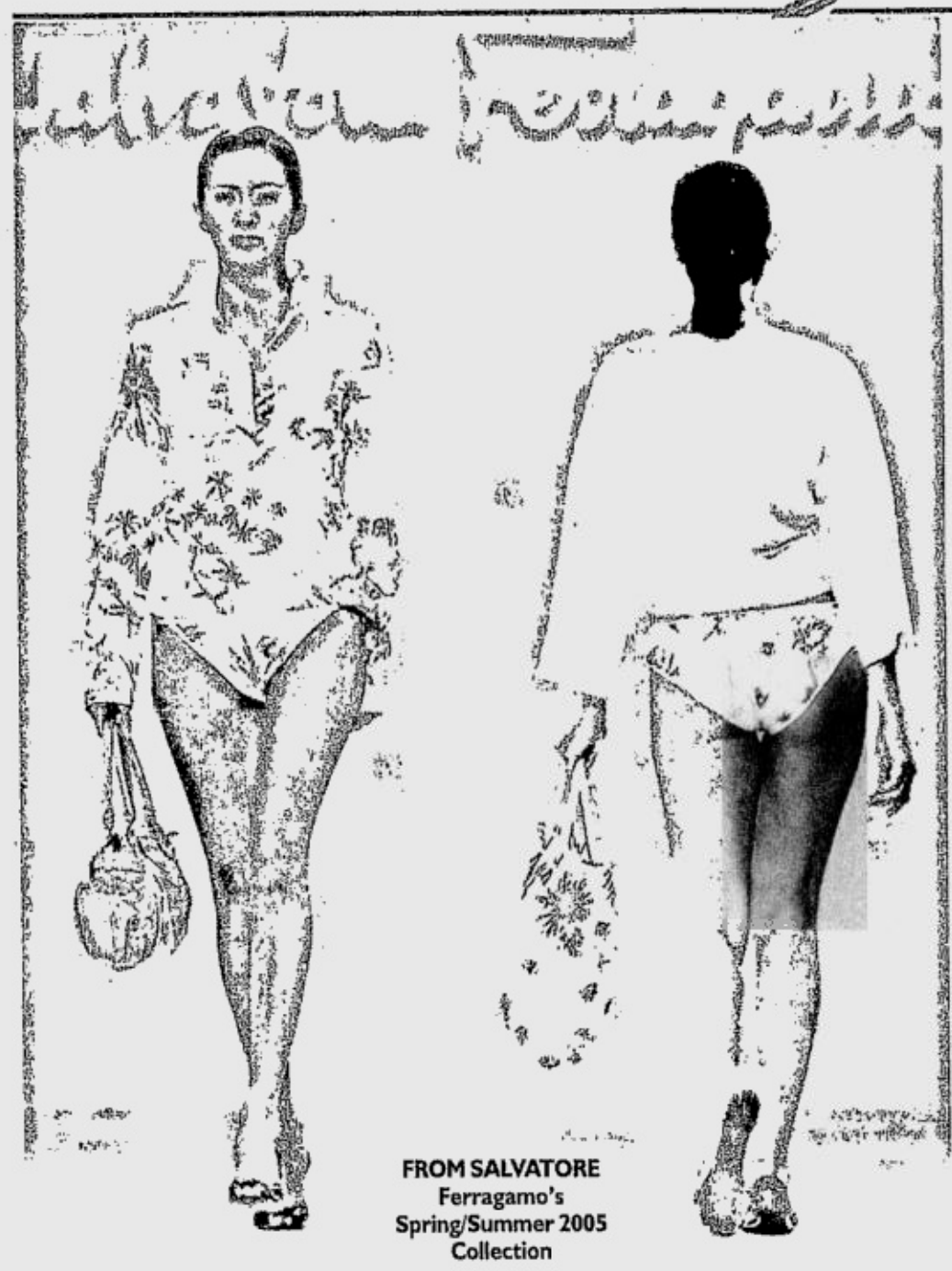

FROM SALVATORE Ferragamo's Spring/Summer 2005 Collection

Young James Ferragamo is not a third-generation heir about to lose the family jewel

Lovelier the third time around

Text by Cheche V. Moral
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

THE MAN had built his shoe empire literally with his own hands. When he passed away some 40 years ago, his widow and children took over the reins and proceeded to expand the business to international renown, perhaps more than the old man ever dreamed of. Now steps in the third generation.

"The pressure is great, for sure," admitted James Ferragamo, wrinkling his handsome face with a chuckle. "It's not all on my shoulders. We are 22 cousins, and I think together we need to make it. I contribute the best way I can."

The 33-year-old heir to the illustrious Salvatore Ferragamo empire was in town early this week to present the brand's 2005 Spring-Summer collection in a fashion show at the Westin Philippine Plaza. Ferragamo, who was visiting Manila for the first time, is the director of the luxury brand's women's leather products division, and is in-charge of corporate sales services.

James' grandfather, the brand's namesake and whose passion for shoemaking began as a boy in Italy, built the brand after migrating to the United States as a young man. The older Ferragamo shod the famous feet of Hollywood icons like Greta Garbo, Marilyn Monroe, Audrey Hepburn. These days many famous footsies still rely on the elegance of Ferragamo footwear, including Chinese (gone Hollywood) actress Zhang Ziyi, who is developing a collection with the brand.

Even after the old man's demise, the company remained wholly owned by the family. Ferruccio Ferragamo, eldest son of Salvatore and James' father, is the chief executive officer. Ferruccio's siblings and two of James' cousins all hold key positions in the company. With too many cousins, James explained, "We agreed that only three members of the third generation would hold [active roles in the business]. The others are on the board of directors."

Advantage

"I think the advantage [of having remained a family-owned company] is that we are able to think long-term," he noted. "We are able to focus on the direction we want to have and maintain a clear vision."

But because of the setup, the young man confessed to family squabbles when it came to making business decisions. "Absolutely," he grinned, admitting that such give-and-take served to strengthen the family.

Salvatore Ferragamo has six shops in the Philippines, the franchise of which is owned by Stores Specialists, Inc. According to the young Ferragamo, the brand has a 35-percent share in the Philippine luxury market. The share is so significant that they are looking into refurbishing two stores.

Asia, in fact, is the brand's biggest market, with 40 percent of its merchandise sold in the region. (Europe and the United States get 30 percent each.) The brand owes its success in the Far East to being, according to James, "one of the early movers of developing a luxury market in Asia," along with brands like Louis Vuitton.

In 1960, when the patriarch died, the brand was known solely for shoes. It has since expanded to a complete fashion house, with ready-to-wear for men and women, handbags, silks and accessories, eyewear, timepieces and fragrances.

"In my grandfather's time, we sold only in the US and Europe. We have become a global brand, and I think we have achieved renown worldwide," said James. "We have infiltrated different markets and changed our approach. We are not a 'global' brand but a 'global-regional' brand. You know, go global but act local? This is to make sure that we have a global offering but cater to the local need. Otherwise we create a generic offering."

In 1990, he said, 80 percent of Ferragamo products were being sold in the US. "Now we've divided them equally around the world. I guess that's one of the inputs of my father, to respond to specific needs."

THE FERRAGAMO woman is "seductive but never vulgar... and (is) never (a) slave to fashion." Peep-toe heels in pink

LOVELIER/ H2

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"SHADE" motif maillot and sweater with matching handbag

SILK gabardine blouse and skirt, and metallic handbag

RED check blouse and skirt, and black handbag

"TROPIC" motif print shirt, tangerine pants and handbag in mustard color

SCARF top, silk chiffon skirt with three layers, and purse in cream color

SCARF silk twill dress in "Shade" motif and metallic bag; at left, beige handbag with pebblegrain leather accent

Lovelier the third time around

MONDAY'S Ferragamo gala show was co-presented by the brand with Stores Specialists, Inc. and Globe Platinum. Excess funds from the sponsorship will go to the endowment fund of the Philippine Italian Association, which supports, among others, talented Filipino artists.

From page H1

Educated in England and the US, James Ferragamo used to make shoes in their Italian factory as a young boy, an opportunity that familiarized him with the production line. As a student in the US, he sold shoes at the Ferragamo boutiques in Beverly Hills and New York City on school breaks. Before joining the family company, he worked as a buyer for Saks Fifth Avenue in Manhattan and at the investment firm Goldman Sachs in London. The experience helped him bring an outside perspective to his family's business.

Not like grandfather

As head of women's leathergoods, James is responsible from creation to delivery, including the merchandising approach. He does give his inputs for the designs, but unlike his grandfather, he's not a creative person. "I don't do sketches," he admitted.

He did, however, successfully lead the team that produced a capsule fashion collection in 1999, a year after he joined the company. He also headed the successful remake of the ballerina-style Audrey shoes, originally designed by his grandfather for actress Audrey Hepburn.

Salvatore Ferragamo the brand prides itself for its timeless elegance, which appeals to the mature segment of the luxury market. "We want to be modern but we don't want to do something that's so revolutionary because it won't be representative of the Ferragamo brand," James explained. "We want to maintain [that philosophy] but work with a different initiative and develop a product line that can also focus on the younger market in terms of price range. That's why we came out with the logo jacquard line."

In the Philippines, James said the shoes and bags were very popular, especially the more feminine and colorful designs. This fall, Filipinos can expect more "interesting materials" for shoes and handbags. "This is in response to the DNA of our brand. My grandfather used extensively different materials, and we're doing that for fall," said James. "We're using different skins like gazelle, lizard. Craftsmanship is also an important element of the brand, so there will be crocheted materials."

For the transition from summer, the first part of the fall collection, which begins delivery in May, will have a fresher color palette, with minty greens mixed with blacks and browns.

The young man has high hopes for the brand's global future. "We have an amazing opportunity to grow. There are still markets we haven't responded to. And we haven't done any false moves to cheapen the perception of the brand."

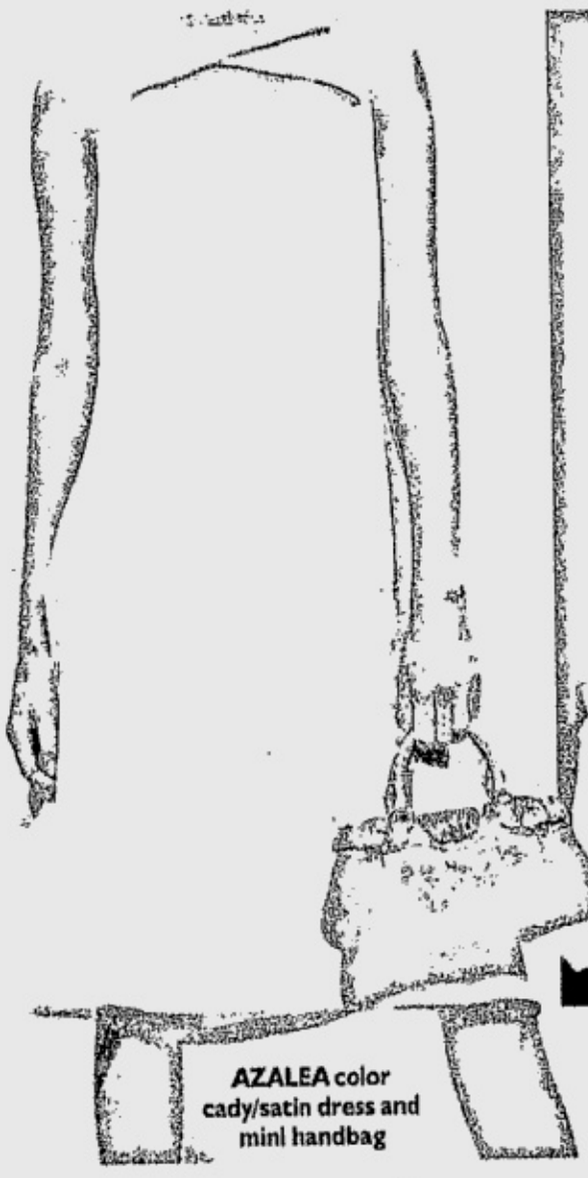
Clearly this is one third-generation guy who's not about to lose his family's empire.

E-mail the author at cmoral@inquirer.com.ph

FERRAGAMO'S colored handbags are a hit with Filipinas.

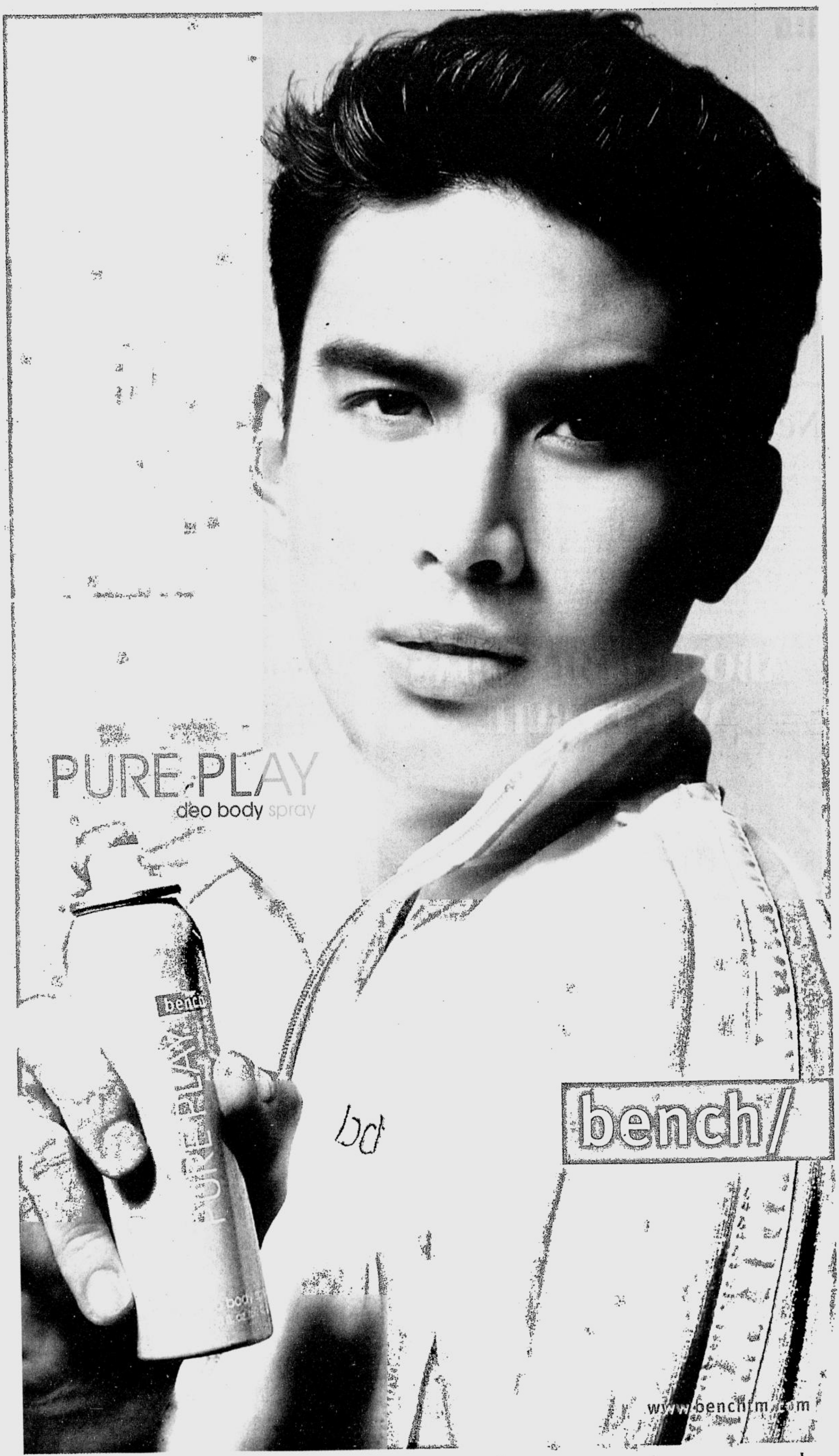
SILK and cotton blend jacket and skirt in desert tones, with chiffon and satin trim, and pink handbag

STRIPED three-button jacket, sport shirt and sporty trousers



AZALEA color cady/satin dress and mini handbag

UNLINED three-button suit in white cotton and overnight bag in white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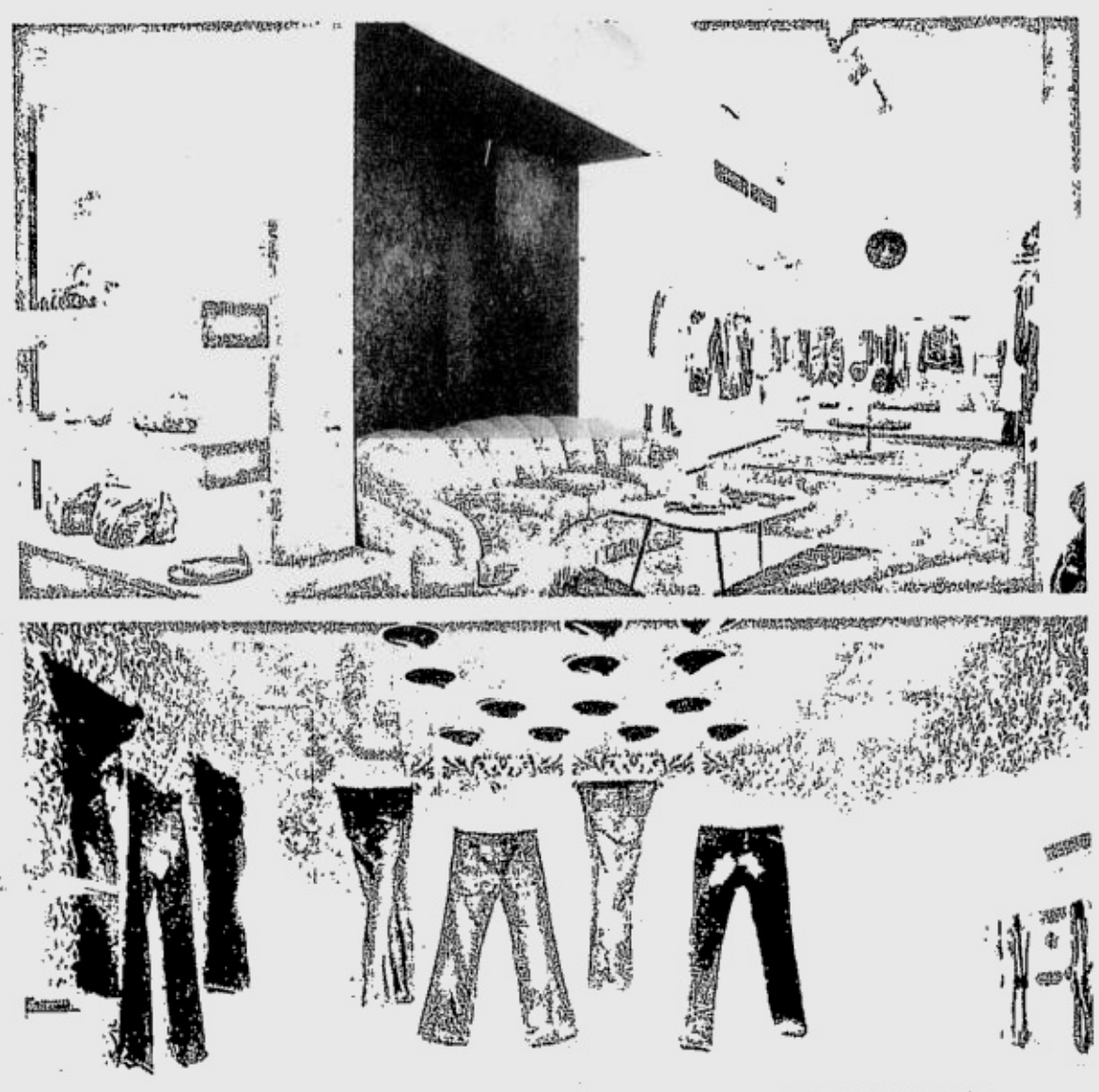
NEW Diesel store in Hong Kong's Causeway Bay



New luxury haven in HK

LOCATED in the Causeway Bay shopping mecca, the new Hong Kong Diesel store offers a relaxed yet luxurious retail experience.

Designed by the Diesel Interior Design team, the 270 sq m space hosts vintage pieces, modern lighting, one-of-a-kind details and original decorations. Retro-style furniture and furnishings—including a vintage chandelier from Italy—were hand-picked for the new store.

The front desk, decorated with a beautiful mosaic, replicates the soft twill of cashmere. The two-sided denim counter contrasts luxury jeans for a cowboy feel. The fitting rooms have doors beautified by Baroque paintings. And an illuminated "tunnel" leads to the gorgeous women's denim wall, decorated with silver liberty graphics.

"This new Diesel space blends together fashion, art and design in the highest form of elegance and innovation," says Roberto Cappelli, chief executive officer of Diesel Pacific Limited.

To celebrate the opening of its new Hong Kong store in Fashion Island, Berlin-based music-fashion-art group Chicks on Speed recently performed at the new store.

In the Philippines, Diesel is exclusively distributed by Stores Specialists Inc. and is available at Greenbelt 3, Power Plant Mall, Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Robinsons Galleria, and Robinsons Place Manila.

THE 270 SQ M space hosts vintage pieces, modern lighting, one-of-a-kind details and original decorations.

Exquisite sterling silver

MICHELIS recently showcased its designs to an international audience at the Hong Kong Jewellery Show, one of the most prestigious jewelry shows in the world.

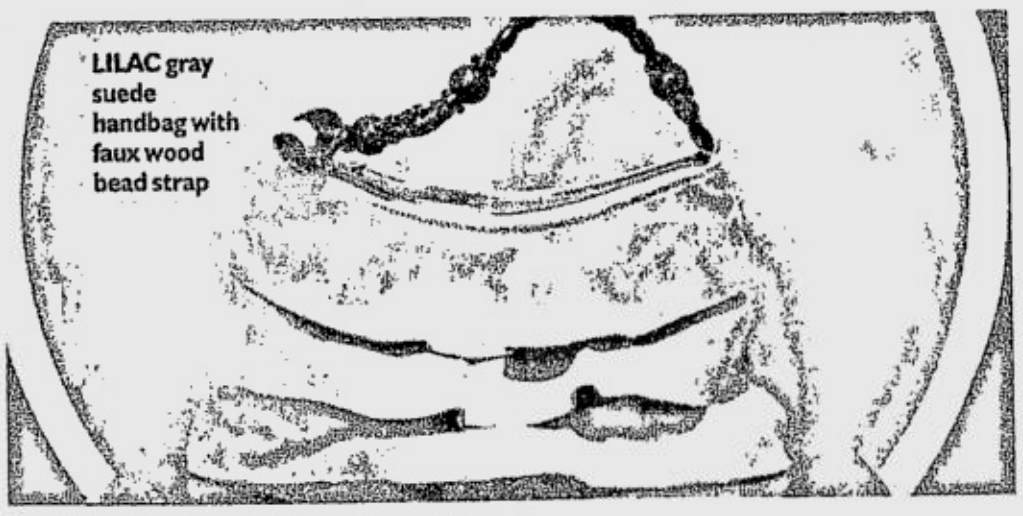
The Hong Kong Jewellery Show is held thrice a year at the Hong Kong Convention Centre. This was the first time Michelis participated in the event. Participation in world trade fairs is part of the brand's long-term campaign to become an internationally known design house for sterling silver jewelry.

Located at the Designer Jewellery Galleria Hall, Michelis' booth and designs held their own against other international design houses and received rave reviews from buyers. The unique collections on display were Reflexions, Concentricity, Charming Moments, Tattoo, Daisy and Clouds, all of which will be launched in the Philippines within the year.

For the past seven years, Michelis has provided its Filipino clients fine sterling silver creations that are handcrafted according to international market standards. The design house offers a wide range of jewelry pieces for men and women, as well as exquisite gift items that are a perfect complement to everyday life.

Michelis has branches at Greenbelt 1, Power Plant Mall, Greenhills Jewellery Centre, the Shangri-La Hotel Makati and the Manila Mandarin Oriental Hotel. Michelis is also available at Rustan's Alabang Town Center, Rustan's Harrison Plaza, Rustan's Robinsons Ermita and at Rustan's Tower.

Call 7237510 local 106 or 116.



LILAC gray suede handbag with faux wood bead strap

Tips on shopping for a bag

"IF THE BAG can fit all your daily essentials, buy it!" advises Cecily Mabasa, founder and designer of Whimsy.

Having been born into a family who has manufactured bags for 20 years now, the design and business of accessories come naturally to Mabasa. She even studied in New York's Fashion Institute of Technology. Then she apprenticed with the House of Bally and worked at Coach.

Mabasa shares the top seven things one should consider when shopping for a bag:

The occasion. For where and what are you going to use the bag? An office party? Wedding? Cocktails? Travel?

Contents. What do you plan to carry in the bag?

Compartments. "Check how many compartments a bag has," Mabasa says. "The more compartments, the better you can organize the contents of your bag."

Cell-phone pocket. A must nowadays—make sure it has one of these.

"Test drive" the bag. Do all of your essentials fit? Don't be afraid to ask the saleslady if you can give the bag a "test drive." "If you're not sure that the things you can't live without can't fit, try it," Mabasa says.

Security. The practicality and material of the bag is just as important as its style. Will it hold all your things or will it leave your stuff sticking or falling out?

SOFT shoulder bag with giant bow in metallic finish

Have fun while shopping. "Choose a color you like," Mabasa says. "Don't just stick to black. Explore. Have fun!"

Whimsy also accepts requests for made-to-order bags. The store is located at 2/L, Glorietta 3, Ayala Center, Makati; and Lifestyle Section, 2/L, Power Plant Mall, Rockwell Center, Makati.

ROAD TALK

World automakers look to China for growth

SHANGHAI, China (AP) - China is crazy about cars, and world automakers are matching that passion as they look to the market here for growth missing elsewhere.

General Motors Corp drove home that message with a lavish preview of its offerings for Shanghai's 2005 auto show, which opens to the public on Friday. Strobe lights flashed, drummers pounded and the Shanghai Symphony Orchestra accompanied as the world's biggest automaker rolled out its offerings at a cavernous Shanghai shopping mall.

"The China market is vital to us," said Bob Lutz, GM vice chair for global product development. "The importance of this market extends beyond our bottom line and beyond China."

Ditto for all the big automakers here, wooing Chinese customers with dozens of models, many new to this market and some due to be Made In China.

"As a director of a global automotive company, I know full well, if we are not successful in China we ultimately will not be successful," said Mazda marketing director Stephen T. Odell.

The Japanese automaker on Wednesday announced plans to begin production in China of two additional versions of its Mazda 6 - a 5-door hatchback and wagon. Mazda also said it would begin China sales of the Tribute, a mid-sized sports utility vehicle, and its RX-8 sports car.

GM's chief offering for the show is a new version of the Chevrolet Aveo, a 4-door compact developed in South Korea by GM Daewoo Auto & Technology that will be manufactured by the company's Shanghai joint venture.

China was GM's second-largest global market last year, with sales rising 27 percent on-year to nearly 500,000. Its joint ventures with Shanghai Automotive Industry Corp, or SAIC, and Wuling Automotive have been a major source of profits in otherwise bleak times.

GM's market share in China rose to 10.4 percent at the end of March from 9.3 percent at the end of last year. And after dropping sharply in January-February, its sales to dealerships rose 1.3 percent on-year in the first quarter to 132,401 vehicles as sales picked up in March.

But even here, sales have been slowing and profit margins shrinking amid rising costs and falling sticker prices.

Chinese automakers sold 574,300

China was GM's second-largest global market last year, with sales rising 27 percent on-year to nearly 500,000. Its joint ventures with Shanghai Automotive Industry Corp, or SAIC, and Wuling Automotive have been a major source of profits in otherwise bleak times

CHINA/13

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*Color may vary from actual model.

Ford SUV leader Q1 of 2005

Ford's sales and marketing vice president Luie C. Dy Buncio said that this quarter's sales is a more than satisfactory outcome that speaks of the market's trust in Ford. "It has been Ford's vision to be the accepted SUV brand in the market, and it seems that Ford is on the right track."

THE LATEST results from the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines Inc (Campi) and the Truck Manufacturers Association (TMA) show that Ford stays in the lead among SUVs for the first quarter of the year from January to March 2005.

Ford's total market share in the highly competitive SUV category was 30 percent in March, consistent with the sales results of the past two months.

Ford Everest has a share of 52 percent among the mid-size SUVs, making it Ford's No. 1-selling SUV since its launch in 2003.

Ford's sales and marketing vice president Luie C. Dy Buncio said that this quarter's sales is a more than satisfactory outcome that speaks of the market's trust in Ford. "It has been Ford's vision to be the accepted SUV brand in the market, and it seems that Ford is on the right track."

Visit the Ford dealerships and test drive any of its SUV leaders at Alabang, Balintawak, Commonwealth, Edsa, Libis, Makati, Manila, Quezon Avenue, Shaw Boulevard, Bacolod, Cabanatuan, Cagayan de Oro, Cavite, Cebu, Dagupan, Davao, Iloilo, Pampanga, and San Pablo.

Land Rover LR3 wins 2005 Motor Trend SUV of the Year

THE ALL-NEW LR3 was named Motor Trend's 2005 Sport/Utility of the Year. Motor Trend editor-in-chief Angus MacKenzie presented this prestigious award to Mike O'Driscoll, president, Aston Martin Jaguar Land Rover, at the California International Auto Show in Anaheim, California recently.

Criteria for the award included a series of comprehensive evaluations and grueling tests-including street, track, and off-road-administered to each of the seven entrants. In addition to LR3, contenders included Chevrolet Equinox, Ford Escape Hybrid, Ford Freestyle, Jeep Grand Cherokee, Infiniti QX56 and Nissan Pathfinder.

"LR3 significantly changes the rules for today's SUV and Motor Trend is at the leading edge of acknowledging its importance," said O'Driscoll. "LR3 is at the heart of Land Rover's transformation into the 21st century and this award confirms that we achieved the goals we set for it."

Designed and engineered for success, LR3 is new in every way. "This vehicle delivers a premium package that is optimized for North American consumers," added O'Driscoll.

Developed by and for Land Rover, its modern architecture delivers all the comfort, refinement and on-road attributes of a monocoque, while continuing to set new standards in off-road performance.

A specially developed 300hp 4.4-liter version of Jaguar's acclaimed V8 engine, coupled with a six-speed automatic "intelligent shift" transmission and permanent four-wheel drive, deliver an SUV with outstanding performance.

On-road driving and refinement are further enhanced by a fully independent suspension featuring four-corner air suspension. Like Range Rover, this air suspension is height adjustable, to assist with entry and exit, and to boost ground clearance for off-road performance.

Interiors feature seating for up to seven full-size adults, a fold-flat interior, and an alpine roof, which places glass over each seating position.

LR3 continues the brand's tradition of introducing class-leading technologies, the most significant of which is Terrain Response. This patented system optimizes driveability and comfort, as well as maximizing traction. Using a rotary switch on the center console, the driver selects one of five terrain settings: General driving; grass/gravel/snow; mud/ruts; sand, and rock crawl.

Other innovative, user-friendly technologies in LR3 include DVD navigation and optional adaptive headlights that swivel with the direction of travel to illuminate the road ahead.

A well-equipped LR3 is available from P5.4 million with a 3-year/100,000 km warranty. Vehicles are available at Land Rover's two dealerships in Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati and ADB Avenue in Ortigas.

UMC gives motorists a 'smooth drivin" summer

THE SMOOTH Drive team composed of UMC's best technicians with the right equipment and the right parts at the right time.

UNIVERSAL Motors Corp (UMC) opened summer with Nissan Smooth Drive '05 roadside assistance services, which formed part of its corporate social responsibility program. Cristina L. Teehankee, UMC national service division senior vice president, explained, "This is a community service that UMC offers the general public as a Good Samaritan. Smooth Drive is a combination of expertise from our best technicians with the right equipment and the right parts at the right time. The check-ups provide motorists with the confidence to reach their destinations safely."

The 23rd in a series of summer service clinics, Smooth Drive was a tie-up between UMC, Nissan Motor Philippines Inc and Shell to provide motorists with pre-trip and emergency services during their summer road trips. Teams of Nissan servicemen were stationed in Baguio City, Naga City, Cavite, Laguna, C5 Road, Tarlac, Cabanatuan City, Bulacan, La Union, and Bataan.

Smooth Drive services covered all vehicle types. The 20-point vital inspection included drive belts, engine oil and condition, coolant, water hose, brakes, power steering, battery fluid, tires, air conditioning, lights and seatbelts. Repairs were diagnosed on the spot to service the complaints of the customers.

Several motorists have been able to benefit from Smooth Drive '05, with the Baguio unit in particular swamped with vehicles awaiting diagnostic check-ups. One Patrol owner had his attention called to a deflated tire by a Smooth Drive Roving Team. Another motorist was able to get his AUV up and running again, thanks to a Nissan serviceman, after breaking down on the roadside and many failed attempts at getting back on the road. And in another incident, a car was unable to start up after refueling at a gas station where Smooth Drive services were being offered. After identifying a severed cable as the problem, Nissan servicemen were able to provide the proper replacement.

As a value added treat, caps, Advil, Centrum and Lemon Square products were also given away to motorists passing Smooth Drive service areas.

THE TEAM at work

Festival Supermall hosts Scooterista summer party

FESTIVAL Supermall in Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang played host to Scooterista Magazine's "Sagad Da Scoot" summer party April 16.

Scooter aficionados gathered for a big reunion and had a grand time as they were treated to a fashion show showcasing sporty, scooter-inspired fashion courtesy of Puma, Adidas and Action Hobbies. Spicing up the party was the superb performance of Orange and Lemons and the Bloomfields, two of the country's leading bands, whose repertoire includes classic hits of the '60s and '70s.

Scooterista Magazine editor-in-chief Manu Sandejas and event organizer Raul Floresca took this opportunity to launch the "Sagad da Scoot" promo, the search for the most trashed bike, which would be given a total makeover. Screening will be until June and the finished product will be unveiled in May. Interested scooteristas can text SCOOTERISTA to 622 for Smart subscribers and start texting photos of their worn-out bikes.

There were exciting games and various prizes were given, like Castrol Power One shirts, Solar Interactive gift packs, Yamaha caps and belt bags, Zeus helmets and Komine jackets from Action Hobbies and Nike watches were raffled off to the spirited scooteristas. Gift certificates courtesy of Serye and Adidas were also raffled off to lucky winners.

This summer shindig was a joint offering of Scooterista Magazine, Festival Supermall and Castrol. Other sponsors were Action Hobbies, SYM, Motorcycle Philippines.com, Philippine Scooter Federation, Yamaha, Speed and Solar Interactive, Puma, Adidas, Yehey.com, Speed Zone, Potato Corner, Serye, Jollibee, Don Henrico's, Bravo, Shopwise and Davids'. Studio 23's Tricia Chiongbian and Magic 89.9 radio jockey Tony Tony were the hosts for the evening.

For more inquiries, call the Festival Supermall marketing department at 850-3517.

GENCARS BAGS ISUZU DEALER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Gencars Inc, exclusive dealer of Isuzu Philippines Corp in Makati, won the much-coveted 2004 Dealer of the Year Award in the prestigious competition that aims to encourage excellence in customer servicing. Shown receiving the giant glass trophy were Gencars chair emeritus and owner Amb. Antonio Cabangon-Chua (left) and his son, Gencars president and CEO Edgard Cabangon (2nd from right). Top Isuzu Philippines executives, President Yoshifumi Komura (2nd from left) and EVP Kazuhiko Sho (right) handed the prizes, which include P300,000 cash and 8 round-trip tickets to Bangkok, Thailand.

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World automakers look to China . . .

From page II

passenger vehicles in the first quarter of this year, down 7.69 percent from the same period a year ago, according to the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers.

March saw a slight uptick, with passenger vehicle sales rising 2.48 percent in the month to 256,000, but demand has clearly slowed. Vehicle sales are forecast to rise about 10 percent this year, compared with 75-percent growth in passenger car sales in 2003 and 15 percent last year.

A year ago, "Customers were snapping up cars faster than the industry could make them. Margins were fat. Growth forecast charts were steep, straight lines," said Mark Schulz, executive vice president of Ford Motor Co. "I think it's fair to say we're going to see a much different mood at this show."

Ford on Wednesday reported earnings of US$1.2 billion in the first quarter but saw its first-quarter US sales fall 4 percent on-year.

Many in the industry say they expect China sales to pick up in the second half of the year, as consumers put off by higher gas prices and tighter lending policies in the first quarter jump back into the market.

Fewer than 3 percent of all Chinese families own cars, and automakers are counting on rising incomes in this country of 1.3 billion to power strong growth for years to come.

Mazda, which is one-third owned by Ford and has partnerships with China's Changan Automotive Group and FAW Group, saw its China sales climb 21 percent on-year to almost 100,000 vehicles last year. Mazda says it is aiming to triple China sales by 2010.

GM forecasts 10 percent to 15 percent annual growth in China's auto market this year and 10 percent growth for a few years afterward.

"We see continuing strong growth in this market. No longer stratospheric growth, but a steady 8 to 10 percent a year annually," said Ford's Schulz.

"There are no other markets anywhere that offer 8 to 10 percent growth," he said. AP

Payless Parts and Car Care: A new concept in retail, service

MOST people break a sweat when faced with car or motorcycle troubles. The prices of spare parts and services seem to increase constantly. Payless Parts and Car Care has a solution to this problem. It has conceptualized a new method in retailing automotive and motorcycle parts.

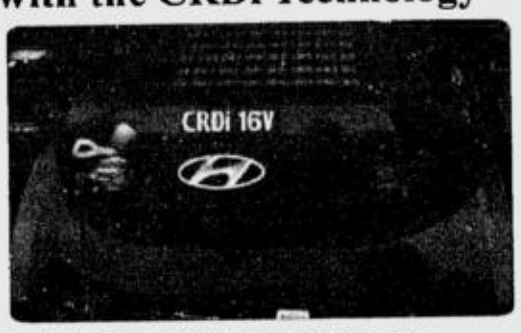
Payless Parts and Car Care uses logistics as the "great difference". It simplifies the channel that connects the flow of merchandise from the manufacturer to the end user, thus reducing the cost considerably.

Payless Parts and Car Care also develops a different product mix that supplies to different types of markets, depending on the location of the branch. By identifying the specific target market, it could easily make out the products and services that it plans to offer.

Implementing this strategy cultivates a reputation of being a pioneer in this concept. Its outlets have the potential to be specialists in their chosen target markets. But they would still be flexible enough to expand and not be constrained to give added value to services that would contribute to customer satisfaction, since they could easily adapt to the changes in the market. It is the company's responsibility to build a long-term relationship with its clients.

Payless Parts and Car Care is a member of the PPC Group of Companies, with head offices at 21 5th Street. New Manila, Quezon City. For more details, call 724-1798, 724-1805, 724-1751, 724-2036, 724-1806, 724-2207 or fax 724-1849, 724-2206, 724-4962. Provincial branches can be found in Cebu, Davao and Cagayan de Oro.

On and Off-Road Supremacy with the CRDi Technology



Feel the Fury of this Beast of Beauty
Let your heart roar in a unique fusion of form and function with the all-new Hyundai Tucson (pronounced: 'tü-"sän). Ride the wind in this mighty 4WD SUV and cross boundaries in leagues and fuel mileage. Come and experience the power of CRDi (Common Rail Direct Injection) technology as you rip the roads in style. Fully-loaded with a barrage of features to ensure driver and passenger comfort and safety, the Tucson leads the pack in fuel economy and optimum engine performance. An amazing feat for a diesel-engine powered all-terrain vehicle.

Diesel has excellent air-fuel compression and better fuel efficiency than gasoline, kilometer per kilometer. Well loved by truckers and heavy haulers, diesel is the fuel of choice for its remarkable quality of providing high-torque power at a price that doesn't burn your budget. So you can be sure that the Tucson can pull you out of those tight spots when need be. Despite its great qualities, diesel engines are hindered by their unflattering reputation of being noisy, shaky and harsh making them seem unworthy of high-profile urban driving.

CRDi diesel engine technology, which is also available on the Hyundai Starex and Matrix, is of great help to today's cost-conscious motorists. This breakthrough engine technology delivers optimum performance and fuel efficiency, while minimizing maintenance costs and engine wear and tear. As a result of the new technology diesel-fueled engines are less expensive to operate. Here in Asia, Hyundai is one of the few firsts to implement the use of the CRDi technology.

A Proud Innovation Recognized Around the World
Invented in 1997, the common rail was a new kind of fuel injection system. This invention revolutionized the European motoring standards as all major European carmakers began to implement the same system into their vehicles. Having adopted the system, its popularity grew amongst motorists.

Using a single rail to run the length of the engine allows high-pressure fuel to course into each cylinder. Using an electronic system to monitor and accurately distribute the precise amount of fuel needed to achieve maximum engine combustion efficiency. Thus, this system enables CRDi-equipped diesel cars to have fast, gasoline–like acceleration and response while significantly consuming less fuel.

With a sophisticated on-board computer to monitor and adjust a wide range of engine, functions, the now adjustable injector heads that feed a precise amount of fuel to the engine optimizes power while minimizing burnt emission and pollution CRDi brings diesel engines to the point that it surpasses gasoline engines. Combined innovations, high-torque and fuel efficiency makes the CRDi faster and easier to maintain with smoother, quieter operation with less emission. A technology worth placing into high-end models and sedans

The Tale of the Tapes
Taking three commonly used engines lets see how they fare to the CRDi. Aspirated Diesel Engines (Common Diesel Engines) old and rickety well-known to be slow, bulky, fuel-guzzlers were created half a century ago, improved by the introduction of a turbo charger to improve the air density inside the combustion chamber (Turbo Diesel Engines) resulting in a slight 5 to 15% boost of power. Coupled with an intercooler (Turbo Charged Intercooler Diesel Engine) for extra air density the TCI produced 20% more power than Turbo engines.

The CRDi already delivers excellent fuel efficiency and when combined with a turbo intercooler and a precise computer system enhances every aspect of the engine. Power went up to 40% higher than the TCI engine, 75% higher than the Turbo engine and 100% higher than normal aspirated diesel engines.

The evolution the diesel engine has gone through great changes, and the pinnacle of this, at present, is the CRDi technology, that improves power and fuel economy in diesel engines.

Truly, the Hyundai CRDi has come a long way to bring a new age of fuel-efficient vehicles to the market; a welcome innovation to an economy that needs more ways of enjoying motoring without their budget's suffering. And since it is in the new Starex, Matrix and Tucson, Hyundai would always find ways for you to drive your way.

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Hyundai Asia Resources, Inc. (HARI) is the exclusive distributor of Hyundai vehicles and Hyundai MOBIS parts in the Philippines.

HYUNDAI
Drive your way

Caring for your car

MEN. They care for a lot of things, but mostly concentrated on two areas: women and cars. Oftentimes the latter gets more attention. Many times we've heard of sob stories from women who complain of the lack of attention they get compared to their mechanical counterparts, many of them enraged at the fact that they are losing the battle against these rambling machines.

But you can't really blame men. Car maintenance, just like relationships, involves proper, though not really undivided, attention. The problem is, men tend to know more about the itsy-bitsy things regarding their cars down to the last detail, while they can't even tell exactly where their wife's biggest mole is located, hence, the jealous fits.

Caring for a car is, as mentioned above, just like taking care of relationships. There has to be constant check ups, routine maintenance and inspection, sensitivity, foresight, and a little love on the side. Not too much, though, unless you want the missus come breathing down your neck like a dragon seething with fire in her nostrils, and making you choose between her and the car.

Here are some basic car care tips courtesy of Wheels Inc, a one-stop automobile shop that offers SsangYong, Kia, and Hyundai cars. If you really love your car, just like your women, take heed!

Regular oil change. Changing engine oil regularly (at least every two months) is needed to keep the engine running smoothly and prevent corrosion inside

Periodic tune up. It's a must that the vehicle is brought to the mechanic for tune-ups. This would ensure that the engine is functioning at above-par levels. You wouldn't want to have your engine conk out in the middle of the superhighway while driving, don't you?

Regular checking of parts. A simple spark plug, when ignored, could pose problems. Spark plugs are the most commonly replaced car part. They should be regularly checked for corrosion, and should be replaced immediately if corroded. You wouldn't want to be late for a meeting just because you could not start your car due to a defective spark plug, would you?

Genuine car parts/accessories. Buy only from reputable car parts dealers. They give buyers the best parts available. A bit pricey, yes, but you can't sacrifice quality in favor of substandard, though low-priced, car parts. Value for money in the long run is still top priority, just like when buying a new car.

Most importantly, choose a service center that can truly understand your needs and take care of your car as if it was their own. Count on the expertise and reliability of Wheels Inc Service Center located at E. Rodriguez, Quezon City with telephone numbers 414-9048; 412-0360. Wheels believes that your car really needs the proper attention, or else it will conk out on you. Just like in a relationship, if it's taken for granted, the beloved will leave, naturally. And that's not a good thought, really.

KMP SIGNS CONTRACT WITH XDE

Kawasaki Motors Philippines (KMP), manufacturer of consumer bikes and motorcycles, recently signed a contract with Ximex Delivery Express (XDE), an innovative domestic logistics provider, to manage its warehousing and Nationwide product distribution system. The signing represents a stronger and better relationship for KMP and XDE that began with a simple delivery service and has now flourished into a solid trusting logistic partnership. With this contract award, XDE has moved a step towards helping Kawasaki in its objective of providing cost-efficient streamlined operations and excellent leadtime delivery to its end users and distributors. Shown at the contract signing, from left, are Joey Ibanez, XDE chair, Michio Yamaguchi, KMP president, Jerome Ibanez, XDE president, and Noriharu Yamabayashi, KMP EVP, logistics. Witnessing the contract signing, from left, were Soc Palacio, Archie of KMP and Egay Oanes, Paul Vigelmann, and Romy Guarina of XDE.

Toyota's Innova Revolution Tour this summer

TOYOTA, together with its provincial dealerships, is bringing the top-selling Innova closer to the Filipino families this summer. This April, the Toyota Innova Revolution tour will bring the Innova to different regions outside of Metro Manila. Aside from the Innova display, Innova giveaway items and free periodic maintenance of any Toyota vehicle will be offered as a special summer treat from Toyota.

The Innova Revolution Tour aims to make Innova more accessible to remote areas. With the participation of Toyota's provincial dealership network, the Innova Revolution Tour will be available in the following areas: For northern Luzon, Toyota Batangas will be visiting Calapan; Mindoro Oriental; Calamba, Laguna; Legaspi City; and Naga City. Toyota Cabanatuan will make a stop over at Pulilan, Bulacan; Malolos, Bulacan; Paniqui, Tarlac; and Tuguegarao City. Toyota Dagupan will cover San Fernando, La Union; San Nicolas, Ilocos Norte; and Baguio City. Toyota San Fernando will tour Angeles City; Balanga, Bataan; and Malolos, Bulacan.

The Visayas region will be covered by Toyota Cebu with Tacloban City, Ormoc City and Tagbilaran City. Toyota Cagayan De Oro and Toyota Davao will bring Innova exposure to Zamboanga City, Pagadian City, Dipolog City, Ozamis City, Koronadal City, Kidapawan City, and Cotabato City.

Toyota invites everyone to visit the Innova Revolution site to get free Innova Summer items. In addition, the Toyota dealer in charge will offer free Toyota vehicle check-up to all Toyota owners as part of the caravan.

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GLOBAL QUALITY PROJECT

Passion

INNOVA REVOLUTION TOUR

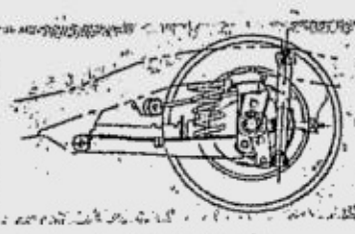
A [R]evolution in Styling

Stylish exterior features; remarkable car-like comfort; a solid frame and enhanced suspension; no-nonsense, all-around safety; and technologically-advanced engines, all with the promise of global quality. With a choice of the latest Common-Rail diesel engine as well as the Variable Valve Timing-intelligent (VVT-i) gasoline engine, both engineered for boosted power, performance and efficiency.

Welcome a beautiful revolution for the Filipino family.

D-4D

VVT-i



A [R]evolution in Power

High-performance 2.5L Common-Rail diesel engine and the 2.0L Variable Valve Timing-intelligent (VVT-i) gasoline engine.

A [R]evolution in Comfort and Luxury

Luxurious interior amenities and cutting edge features like 4-link coil spring rear suspension make for a comfortable and pleasurable ride.

A [R]evolution in Safety

No-nonsense, all-around safety.

Catch the Toyota Innova as it tours the country this summer.

Come and enjoy these great deals and treats:

- On-site assistance of Toyota Financial Services representatives
- Free Maintenance Check-up for all Toyota vehicles
- Special giveaways

Call the Toyota dealer nearest your area for more details!

TOUR SCHEDULE:

- ***Apr. 18 - 23, 2005:*** BDR Petron Service Station, MH Del Pilar St., Pob. Norte, Paniqui, Tarlac
- ***Apr. 18 - 24, 2005:*** Nepo Quadrangle, Nepomart Complex, Angeles City
- ***Apr. 21 - 23, 2005:*** Petron-Fairway Service Station, Quezon Blvd. cor Sinsuat St., Kidapawan City
- ***Apr. 21 - 23, 2005:*** Petron Service Station, Rizal St., Legaspi City, Albay
- ***Apr. 22 - 24, 2005:*** La Suerte, Petron Service Center, San Carlos City, Negros Occidental
- ***Apr. 22 - 24, 2005:*** Abatan Amusement Center Abatan, Buguias, Benguet

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